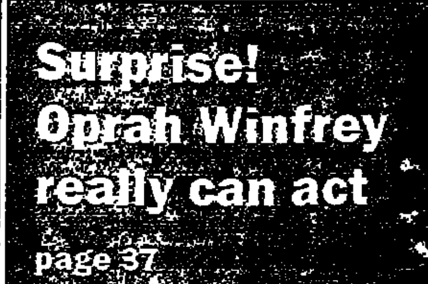
THE TIMES

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Payments could be delayed for weeks

Go-slow plan to beat fraud on benefits

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

BENEFIT claimants will have to wait longer to receive their money under a new fraud crackdown to be unveiled this month by the Social Security Secretary.

Alastair Darling is to instruct Benefits Agency staff to abandon their policy of processing claims as quickly as possible and they will instead be asked to check every detail of every application to ensure no money is paid to bogus claimants.

Benefit applications now take about nine days to process, with the emphasis on getting money to needy people speedily; charities suggested last night that the new regime could mean some people waiting for weeks.

The new strategy demanding that claimants meet more stringent requirements before receiving any cash reflects the Government's view that it is impossible to stamp out benefit fraud that costs up to £5 billion a year by relying on hit squads catching out cheats. The emphasis from now on will be on preventing fraud from happening in the first place.

To back up this approach, the Government is planning to scrap the Weekly Benefit Savings system, under which local authorities receive an estimated £44 million a year in rewards for detecting fraud and error in benefit payments.

Under this system local authorities they have a strong incentive to allow error and fraud to occur in the first place so that they can later be rewarded for uncovering it. Ministers suspect that some councils may even view the system as a handy way to generate extra revenue and a recent report on Blackpool, for example, found that some 70 per cent claimed by the local authority under the system was "doubtful".

In future, local authorities will instead receive financial incentives for establishing more robust and cheat-proof systems.

The Government will soon announce that tougher verification procedures introduced last summer had already saved £200 million in income support payments, and the savings are expected to top £1 billion in three years.

A senior government source said: "People should be under no illusions - the DSS should no longer be seen a soft touch: We want it to be seen as somewhere they helps the most needy in society and that helps get people back to work."

Mr Darling, who was said to be appalled at the levels of errors and inefficiency in benefit offices when he joined the DSS last year, is expected to publish his anti-fraud strategy later this month. Yesterday he said: "The prevention of fraud has to be at the top of everything we do at the DSS and it is essential that we get claims right the first time."

The Government will also tell the Post Office to return all benefit cheques to the Benefit Agency, rather than redirecting them. A favourite ploy of fraudsters is to make multiple Housing Benefit claims from different addresses and then get the cheques redirected to a single post office box; a pilot bar on redirection in Richmond, Surrey, and Hounslow, Middlesex, saved £200,000 in four weeks.

New information technology systems are also to be introduced to ensure that information received by different government agencies can be cross-checked and matched so that people making multiple claims can be identified automatically.

However, anti-poverty campaigners criticised the new approach, which they said could cause unnecessary hardship, particularly among vulnerable groups if it led to delays in benefit payments.Martin Barnes, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Any strategy to tackle error and fraud must be balanced against the real needs of claimants, many of whom often require support very quickly."

A spokeswoman for Shelter said that the system for claiming Housing Benefit was already fraught with delays. "If people fall behind in paying their rent or lose their home because of rent arrears there is a real danger they could be made homeless," she said.

RICHARD POHLE



Dani Walthers describing her latest brush with death: "It's been a bad six months."

Gorilla trek survivor's second brush with death

From Stephen Farrell in Kampala

AN AIR stewardess who survived the gorilla safari massacre told yesterday how she had booked the holiday to recover from an earlier escape from death.

Dani Walthers, 26, was on a standby crew for Swissair Flight 111 which crashed off Halifax, Nova Scotia in September last year, killing all 229 people on board. And on Monday she escaped again when she was released by the bandits after a trek through the jungle that she assumed would lead to a violent end.

Ms Walthers, from Zurich, was rescued at the last minute when the group's American tour guide, Mark Ross, persuaded Hutu rebels not to take her with them across the border into Congo. Mr Ross later flew the survivors back to Kampala where they held a private candlelit vigil for their eight dead comrades.

Ms Walthers said that she had decided to spend £1,100 on the four-week mountain gorilla safari to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest because she had just started to "settle down" after the Halifax crash.

"This was my holiday to get over everything. At one stage in the jungle I cast my mind back and thought 'It has been a bad six months.' I had gone to see a natural healer who told me I would live a long life and I was thinking if this is it, she was lying to me. She has to give me my money back."

As they neared the end of their walk through the rainforest, she said, she had begun disussing music in French to one of her captors until Mr Ross, who was speaking to the bandits in Swahili, warned her to stop. "Mark told me this guy is pretty keen on you. That was the point I realised I ought to shut my mouth."

She learnt the group wanted to take two tourists into Congo, but Mr Ross dissuaded them. "I felt somebody grab my hair and I started crying and I was thinking 'My life is finished.'I was just praying to get out of the situation."

Ms Walthers said the group had become close, helping each other to cope with stomach problems, insect bites and malaria. When the attack started at 6.45am on Monday, she thought the shots she heard were fireworks, but a friend ran to her shouting "Lie down, lie down, they are firing."

The bandits lined everyone up, took their belongings and waited for people from other camps to be brought there before marching them off barefoot. The rebels shouted "Nationality? Nationality?" at everyone and they tried to put her with the French, but she wanted to remain with her friend, shrugging as she explained: "By then I thought I was going to be killed and I was thinking I would rather die with my friends than die with French people."

She pretended to know nothing of Hutu-Tutsi politics. Then two of her friends, whom she refused to name, were taken to one side on the trail. Fearing the worst she tried to persuade the Hutus that one man was her brother, but failed. "I only saw their eyes, and it was the last thing I saw. It is like they were family. I spent two weeks sharing a tent with a girl and now she is gone."

President's vow, page 8
Love of travel, page 9

Kinnear in hospital

Joe Kinnear, the manager of Wimbledon Football Club, was taken to hospital half an hour before his side's Premiership game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

Kinnear was on the pitch with his players about an hour before the kick-off, then complained of feeling unwell. It is believed he was initially examined by Wednesday's club doctor, Ravin Naik.

Dusty Springfield given OBE on her deathbed

By Robin Young

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD, who won fame with a string of hits in the 1960s, has died on the day she was to have been presented with an OBE, it was revealed yesterday. Miss Springfield, 59, died on Tuesday after a battle against breast cancer.

She had been due to travel to Buckingham Palace two days ago for an investiture to receive the OBE she was awarded in the New Year Honours list. But when it became clear she was dying, her manager, Vicki Wickham, was given Palace permission to collect the award on the singer's behalf from St James's Palace.

The medal was then presented to Miss Springfield at a small private gathering at her bedside in the Royal Marsden Hospital in London four weeks ago. The Queen joined those who paid tribute to the singer when she said she was "saddened" to hear of Miss Springfield's death so soon after winning the OBE.



Dusty Springfield: death saddens the Queen

Friends and fans last night described the singer, whose hits included *I Only Want To Be With You*, as one of the greatest ever produced in Britain. Initially diagnosed with cancer in 1994, it was thought that sh4 had beaten the disease until it returned in 1996.

A year ago she was too ill too attend the Brit Awards, but in two weeks she was hoping to be in New York to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Sir Paul McCartney.

Mike Gill worked with the singer for more than three decades and said she had refused to give in to the cancer. He said: "She was a total and utter perfectionist, and a great fighter. Even before the illness she was one of the most stubborn people I have met in my life."

Miss Springfield's fighting spirit was also displayed when she was deported from South Africa for refusing to sing to segregated audiences.

David Sinclair, page 12
Obituary, page 25



"I tried to call, but I couldn't remember our phone number"

Phone codes to change

New area telephone codes beginning 02 and 03 are to be introduced in April next year in spite of the objection of MPs and businesses. Six areas will be affected: London, Northern Ireland, Cardiff, Coventry, Southampton and Portsmouth, but the system will be extended

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Deadline for police minorities

JACK STRAW has set a 12-month deadline for police to treble the number of recruits from black and Asian communities.

Members of the ethnic minority community now make up 2.2 per cent of the 3,000 officers recruited each year. Mr Straw wants that increased to 6 per cent — or 180 — by March 2000.

A Home Office spokesman said last night (wednesday) : "We believe that within a year 6 per cent of recruits should be from the black and Asian communities. We believe this figure is attainable."

In fact, people from the ethnic minorities already make up 5.7 per cent of new recruits to the Metropolitan Police. But for the 43 forces in England and Wales the proportion has fallen from 2.9 per cent last year to 2.2 per cent.

Scientists add style to ties of the old school

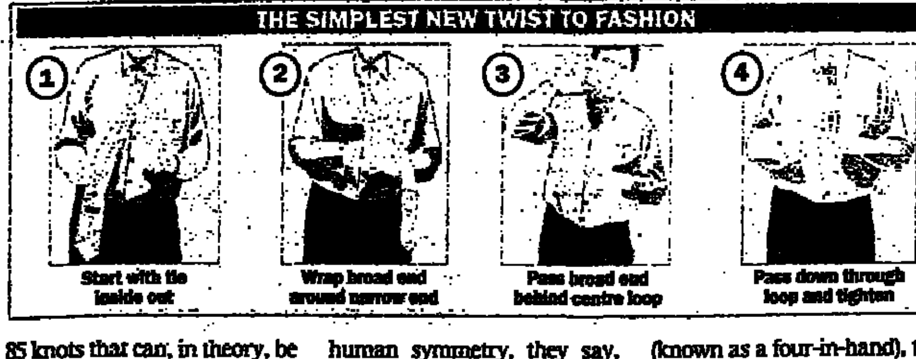
By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

TWO Cambridge physicists have applied mathematics to the humble necktie and invented six new "aesthetically-pleasing" knots, as well as defining the four already in use.

But any modern-day Jeeves who turns to *Nature* in search of inspiration will need a clear head and a knowledge of physics. The technique that Thomas Fink and Yong Mao, of the Cavendish Laboratory, have used to classify knots is called a persistent random walk on a triangular lattice.

They calculate that there are 85 knots that can, in theory, be tied with a conventional tie. But many are too complex, and lead to unbalanced and unaesthetic results.

Asymmetric knots disrupt human symmetry, they say, while a knot that is not tightly bound and does not keep its shape, is worthless. When these are eliminated, the final total is ten: the standard knot (known as a four-in-hand), the Windsor, the half-Windsor, the Pratt (invented in 1989) and six others new to science — although possibly not to creative dressers.



The two physicists have even created a way of defining each step in tying a knot.

Of the six knots new to science, all but one are more complex than the traditional ones, involving six or more steps before the broad end is finally pushed through the front loop.

But one is simpler. It involves starting with the tie inside out, wrapping broad end around narrow end, then up through the centre and down through the loop. It is so simple that it seems it must have been invented before.

But it suffers the disadvantage that when untied, the tie still has a knot in it.

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You can count on MPs to back swaggering Blair



Martin Bell, the Independent MP for Tatton, was a voice crying in the wilderness yesterday. He asked the Prime Minister whether he would "allow backbenchers more freedom to speak their minds, and vote their consciences." He wanted the Commons to be "more a parliament of a free people, and less a rubber-stamp assembly."

Some hope. But it was worth Bell's asking, for Tony Blair's reply was remarkable for its swagger. He did not even bother to lie. The standard fib (any of his predecessors would have offered it) is that MPs are indeed free. This is asserted while keeping one foot firmly on the neck of a prostrate backbencher.

But so confident is this Prime Minister that he has dispensed with lip service to free speech. Mr Blair replied that a Government with a manifesto and a majority was entitled to get its business through the legislature. Full stop.

The Prime Minister's growing bravado coincides with attitudes from the benches behind which are, if anything, even more supine than ever. Government backbenchers are now routinely reading out questions written (or written for them) earlier. This used to be deemed 'out of order', but the Chair seems to have given up trying to stop it.

Hand in hand with this, questions (and answers) are getting longer. Only seven were tackled in half an hour of Welsh Questions yesterday. On Tuesday, an hour of Health Questions covered only thirteen. Monday was brisker, with fifteen reached. Last Thursday achieved nine. The average over the last five hour-long Questions sessions to Departmental ministers is about twelve per hour.

I have compared this with the same period last year and the year before. The figures are 18 and 17. A similar figure obtained 15 years ago. To prove what I suspect — that the House is drifting — needs more detailed analysis. The Chair allows a number of MPs to intervene on each question, so we need to check the lengths of individual contributions as well as the number of questions.

I made a spot check on two days fifteen years ago, and two days this week. In 1984 an hour of MPs' exchanges allowed an average of 201 interventions and replies. The figure this week was 104.

So MPs and ministers are nearly *twice* as prolix now as in the Thatcher years. One reason is that instead of leaping up with punchy interventions of their own, as part of the cut and thrust of a real exchange, backbenchers are trotting along with little speeches they have prepared (sometimes with the help of whips and ministers) and reading them out.

For their part, ministers, instead of replying off-the-cuff to "supplementary" (ie, *ad lib*) questions, are reading out the answers they have prepared to the questions they already know they are going to get. The Chamber is beginning to resemble those Continental assemblies where everyone just reads things "into the record". On Tuesday a backbencher asked the minister whether he had any message he would like her to take back to her constituency. Amazingly, the minister did.

The second reason why MPs now speak for so long is that padding takes longer than substance. To adapt a remark John Major once made about Neil Kinnock, their difficulty in bringing their remarks to any kind of a conclusion is that, having nothing to say, they have no way of knowing when they have said it.

Tories predict mass uprising against euro

Party would join protest marches over 'stampede' into the single currency, writes Philip Webster

PEOPLE will take to the streets in a popular uprising against the "stampede" into the single currency, the Conservative Party predicted last night.

In a further hardening of the Tory stance against the euro, Francis Maude aligned the party with a fast-growing campaign that he compared to the Countryside Alliance, the gathering of interests that came together to fight the Government's rural policies.

And he said that it would be on an "even greater scale" than the campaign to save foxhunting and protect the countryside that culminated in a march of tens of thousands in London. Senior Tory sources predicted anti-euro marches and said that the party would take part in them.

The widening of the political divide on Europe will be emphasised today when the Tories boycott the first meeting of cross-party working group on euro preparations. The "empty chair" policy was ordered by William Hague last week as he withdrew David Davis from the committee in protest at the pro-euro tone of last week's statement on the National Changeover Plan.

All other parties are expected to be represented in the group, chaired by the Labour MP Barry Sheerman, which will today hear a presentation from the Treasury on the next stage of preparations.

Gordon Brown will attack the Conservative absence later during Question Time in the Commons.

The Conservative leadership has advanced its plans to take a frontline role in the anti-euro campaign after the publication of the changeover plan and the launch earlier this week of the cross-party New Europe group which bills itself as *pro-European* and against the single currency.

Party strategists are delighted with the emergence of the group led by Lord Owen because, according to one, "it means that people can see that opposition to the euro is not the preserve of the headbangers".

Although there had been reluctance to confront the issue too early because of fears of a split with Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, strategists say that they have brought the battle out into the open themselves by talking to the Prime Minister and Chancellor before last week's statement. "Consorting with the enemy was a very big mistake on their part," one said.

Mr Maude last night said that opposition to the euro brought together people from diverse political backgrounds as well as from business and academic life. "It includes pro-Europeans, Europeans, Eurosceptics, even a few outright anti-Europeans," he said.

"Each one may come with a different mix of arguments, but all unite in a single robust view that Britain should not be stampeded into membership of the single European currency, whether or not it succeeds for it founder members," he said.

"The pro-euro bandwagon is stopped in its tracks, devoid of arguments and reliant upon the continual assertion of spurious inevitability," he said.

"Instead, it is the many wagons of those who seek a greater future for Britain which, from their separate origins, are beginning now to converge in a great caravan train."

Labour MP says she will quit at election

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

JUDITH CHURCH, Labour MP for Dagenham, has announced that she will stand down at the general election.

Ms Church, 45, who has two sons, said in a statement that she would not seek re-selection as the candidate for "personal family reasons". No other details were given.

Ms Church has represented the East London seat since the June 1994 by-election when she replaced Bryan Gould, the former Shadow Cabinet member who returned to his native New Zealand. She held the seat at the 1997 general election with a majority of 17,000, making it one of Labour's safest seats.

Ms Church was once tipped as one of the rising stars among Blairite MPs. She was elected to Labour's National Executive Committee in 1992 and also chaired Labour's economic policy commission.

But she failed to get a job in *Government*, and has not been a regular performer in the House of Commons; according to the information office, she has spoken in the chamber just 26 times during her parliamentary career.

Ms Church, a former health and safety officer for the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, who also taught mathematics in West Africa for Voluntary Service Overseas, made her decision known to constituency officials last week.

In a statement yesterday, she said: "It has been a great privilege to represent the people of Dagenham in Westminster and I have enjoyed this task." She promised to work hard for the constituency while still an MP and thanked her "loyal and hard-working" office staff for their efforts.

Ms Church was last night unavailable for comment.

SIMON WALKER



Judith Church is to resign for "personal family reasons"

Ford puts millions into Dome sponsorship

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

FORD is to announce multi-million-pound sponsorship of the Millennium Dome tomorrow. The motor company is expected to inject £12 million into the Mobility Zone, billed as a journey into the "transport of the future".

The donation takes the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) closer to its sponsorship target of £150 million. The company is also expected to announce tomorrow £50 million funding for Dome-related projects in towns and cities around the country.

Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Cabinet Office Minister, yesterday pledged that no public money would go to the Dome. He was responding after Labour MPs seized on a report from the Comptroller-General to suggest that there was "significant uncertainty" over how supplementary finance would be raised if the NMEC failed to find the £758 million needed to finance the Dome.

Lord Falconer said the report had been prepared on accounts that appeared last March. "Since then we have raised £58 million of sponsorship, bringing us up to £120 million, which means we are on target for the £150 million sponsorship we need.

"Can I put my hand on my heart and say I'm confident public money will not be required? I can," he said on Channel 4's *Powerhouse*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dectectives are sent for trial

Four detectives, three suspended on full pay and another retired, were yesterday committed to trial by Horseferry Road magistrates, accused of conspiracy to supply drugs, perverting the course of justice and corruption.

Detective Constable Robert Clark, 37, of Kent; Detective Sergeant Christopher Drury, 37, of Sutton; Detective Constable Peter Lawson, 53, of Croydon; and Roger Pearce, 52, of Wimbledon, retired, face four counts of conspiracy to supply cannabis and intent to pervert the course of public justice.

MP rebuked

The Standards and Privileges Select Committee upheld complaints that Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster-General, had not registered shareholdings in Roll Centre and RJ Engineering, the third time he was rebuked by the committee.

Thames dolphin

Sailors and boatmen were put on alert yesterday after a dolphin was sighted in the Thames near Westminister Bridge. It is feared that the animal may be unwell and will suffer if it stays too long in fresh water.

Sex in prisons

Visits in which prisoners could have sex with spouses and partners are to be considered in a review of visiting arrangements. The Prison Service will look at countries such as Spain where special accommodation has been created.

Student loses

The Court of Appeal condemned "harsh" rules that deprive students of state benefits if they take time out from a course. Damian O'Connor, 24, a business student at Sheffield, lost an appeal over being denied income support.

Drummer's deal

Tony McCarroll, the drummer sacked by Oasis, accepted a lump sum of £550,000 in return for relinquishing all future royalties on the music he was involved in, it was disclosed yesterday. His costs are likely to be up to £300,000.



Love rivals battled after the hunt ball

Farmyard affair was like Jilly Cooper novel. **Simon de Bruxelles reports**

THE top horsewoman's former husband battling it out with her younger lover in the stable yard after a hunt ball would not have been out of place in a Jilly Cooper novel.

That was, in fact, how Joan Isaac, a former Horse of the Year Show winner, described her passionate affair with the handsome huntsman 15 years her junior.

Yesterday it led to the two men appearing side-by-side in the dock at Swansea Crown Court. The court was told that three years ago Mrs Isaac, 52, had begun an affair with Anthony Edwards. She had left her husband of 22 years, Wayne Isaac, 45, and moved into a caravan with Mr Edwards, 37, in the yard of the matrimonial home near Neath, South Wales, Grange Farm equestrian centre. At a subsequent divorce hearing, the arrangement had been succinctly described by the judge as "a recipe for disaster".

Soon afterwards Edwards had lost his job as huntsman with the Banwen Miners' Hunt when Mrs Isaac had told her story to the *News of the World*: it had appeared under the the headline, "The Tally-Ho Lovers". Isaac, too, had been humiliated when his former wife had advertised the assets of their stud farm and horse-drawn wedding carriage business without telling him.


Joan Isaac and Anthony Edwards, 15 years her junior


Mrs Isaac pictured with her former husband, Wayne

Dean Pullin, for the prosecution, told the court that in February last year, Isaac and his two grown-up sons had been invited to the hunt ball, but Edwards and their mother were banned on the orders of the hunt committee. Several guests had begun the evening with drinks at Grange Farm, but when the time had come to leave, they had found a large lorry parked across the driveway. As the guests had made their way across the muddy farmyard to a waiting taxi, Edwards had turned off the electricity, plunging them into darkness.

After the ball at the Glynclydach Hotel in Neath was over, Dr Barbara Lewis and her husband, Derek, had offered to drive some of the partygoers back to Grange Farm. They had arrived to find the farm gates padlocked and smeared with grease to prevent anyone climbing over them.

The court was told that three windows had been smashed in the caravan in which Mrs Isaac and Edwards were in bed. Mr Pullin said: "Isaac got out of the car and was confronted by Edwards. Edwards was carrying his twitch, a modified pick-axe handle with a rope attached which is used to subdue horses. As the men confronted each other they started fighting." Dr Lewis, 48, a medical researcher at University Hospital, Cardiff, had tried to intervene. Mr Pullin said: "Dr Lewis ran between the two men with the intention of stopping them fighting. She did not think she would be hit, but as she got between them Edwards was seen to swing the wooden twitch and land a heavy blow on her head just above the right eye." She had collapsed and was bleeding heavily but both men had continued fighting. They had still been fighting 15 minutes later when the police arrived, despite attempts by other guests to pull them apart, and had had to be handcuffed.

Mr Pullin said: "Edwards was squatting astride Dr Lewis, who was lying on her back. He was seen to punch her twice on the face." Police had had to wrestle the twitch from his grasp. Dr Lewis had needed six stitches and her face was badly bruised. Edwards claimed that in the darkness he had mistakenly thought he was hitting Isaac.

Both men pleaded guilty to affray and Edwards also admitted unlawful wounding. Edwards was ordered to pay compensation of £1,000 to Dr Lewis and both men were fined £1,500 with £275 costs. Judge Hugh Williams told them: "I am not sending you to prison because of your age and long-standing good characters. I cannot adjudicate on the rights and wrongs of this bitter dispute which led to these offences."

After the case, Mrs Isaac said: "I'm very relieved that Anthony has not gone to prison. I love him very much and we are going to get married soon. My husband has never been able to get over my leaving him for Anthony, but when you fall in love with someone, that's it. During the fight I was locked inside our caravan by Anthony for my own safety. I was terrified."

Mrs Isaacs, who won the Concours d'Elegance at the Horse of the Year Show twice in the 1970s, has three children, Allison, 34, from a first marriage, and Carl, 24, and Paul, 22, by Isaac. She is also a prize-winning horse-drawn carriage driver and was once presented with a cup by the Queen after winning an event at Windsor.

Elizabeth Richards, Wales secretary of the British Driving Association, said: "Joan is a very colourful character in our sport, but she has quite a colourful private life as well.

"She is a great ambassador for driving and highly respected in equestrian circles. But she has had this personal tragedy in her life with the divorce and her relationship with Anthony Edwards."

Wendy Marshall, the Association's chairwoman said: "She leads what we call in equestrian circles an interesting life. When you get a personality like Joan, things are never dull."


Lynn Redgrave-Clark: her family's tangled relationships were revealed to her as she cooked Thanksgiving dinner

Actress leaves husband who fathered her step-grandson

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LYNN REDGRAVE, up for an Oscar later this month for *Gods and Monsters*, is divorcing her husband of 32 years after he admitted that he had fathered a child with the woman who later married their son.

John Clark, 66, told an American gossip columnist that he had been served with the divorce papers on Tuesday "out of the blue", just days before an exposé about the family's tangled relationships. "I had no inkling she would do that," he said. "I thought we would work things out."

Mr Clark, who was also Redgrave's longtime manager, confesses in next week's *National Enquirer* that he has been "a naughty boy". He tells the tabloid that he hired a woman identified only as Nicolette as his personal assistant eight years ago when his wife was travelling. "One thing led to another and we started an affair," he says.

The relationship produced a son, Zachary, but Mr Clark did not tell his wife that he was the father because "I was afraid it would break her heart". After the affair ended, Nicolette married Ben, the son of Mr Clark and Ms Redgrave. "Lynn, who didn't know the boy was my son, grew to love Zachy," he said. "We really were one big happy family — of sorts."

When Nicolette and Ben broke up, Ben forced Mr Clark to tell Ms Redgrave. He did so while she was cooking a turkey for a Thanksgiving dinner. "It was a pretty lousy festivity," he told *USA Today*'s gossip columnist Jeannie Williams.

John Clark, whose lover later married his son Ben

The story emerged when Nicolette began dating a married plumber who was working on Mr Clark's house. Mr Clark moved his former lover and their son into the second home he owned with Ms Redgrave in California, but he refused to allow the plumber there. Nicolette obtained a restraining order against Mr Clark, and he filed one against her. "None of this would have come out except for (the order) on record," Mr Clark said.

Redgrave, 55, added her husband's name to hers to become Redgrave-Clark last year. The couple also have two daughters, aged 17 and 29.

Second adviser to Queen quits for top City job

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE Queen is to lose a second senior adviser only weeks after Sir Robert Fellowes, her private secretary, left Buckingham Palace to take a well paid City job.

Mary Francis, the Queen's deputy private secretary, also is to take a job in the City. She has accepted the post of director general of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and will leave the Palace in April.

The departure of the modernising high-flier comes after Sir Robert became vice-chairman of Barclays Private Banking last month. Mrs Francis, who had earlier been the Queen's assistant private secretary, became deputy private secretary on Sir Robert's departure, when he was succeeded by his long-serving deputy, Sir Robin Janvrin.

Mrs Francis, 50, was headhunted for the City of London job, which she will take up in early June at the end of a three-year secondment at the Palace from the Treasury.

In effect she was offered a job that was too good to refuse, a senior Palace aide said. She will leave her £60,000-a-year post after accompanying the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on next month's state visit to South Korea.

Mrs Francis said: "The Queen has been kindness itself in encouraging me to do the right thing for my career. My only reason for going is that I have been offered a very good job."

She was one of the Queen's principal advisers during the upheavals after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and has helped to oversee a notable shift towards more informal public royal occasions.


Francis: modernising influence at the Palace

Commentary, page 29

Duchess sets US straight about 'ruthless Firm'

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE Duchess of York has said many things about the Royal Family in her time but she has never called them a "bunch of murderous thugs".

So when the American media yesterday proclaimed that the Duchess had accused the royals of being ruthless criminals, alarm bells rang in her PR offices on both sides of the Atlantic.

Fortunately the explanation was simple enough. It was a classic case of two countries divided by a common language. For Britons the expression "The Firm" in a royal context means the Queen's household but for Americans it means the novel about Mafia lawyers by John Grisham and the subsequent film.

After the Duchess had talked to an interviewer for the upmarket *Ladies' Home Journal* about "The Firm", she was widely understood to be saying that the Royal Family was out to get her and would stop at nothing.

The tabloid *New York Post* claimed she had compared the Royal Family to "murderous thugs who've done everything in their power to destroy her". In the Grisham story, the highly paid lawyers stop at nothing, including murder.

Gerry Casanova of the Duchess's US public relations advisers, Howard J. Rubenstein Associates, said: "This is the sort of misunderstanding that often happens here. American writers don't understand the meaning of 'The Firm' in a Buckingham Palace context."

Kate Waddington, her spokeswoman in London, insisted that it was "absolutely a mistake in interpretation".

The Duchess tells the magazine that she is a survivor and, in a comment the Americans might also have misunderstood, adds: "Historically, many of the women who left the Royal Family have been beheaded but I've still got mine."

She does though draw one comparison with a film: "Have you seen *The Horse Whisperer*? I feel like the horse in *The Horse Whisperer*," referring to the story in which a horse is traumatised after being hit by a truck.

The Duchess says the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, added urgency to her mission to find herself. "I knew that Diana had died not really loving the person she was."

Hermit's reform lasts five minutes

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

AN EXPERIMENT in freeing a reclusive vagabond responsible for a one-man petty crime wave appeared to have failed last night. Robert Sinclair, 51, who has shunned civilisation for 20 years, was set free three weeks ago at Stirling Sheriff Court, central Scotland, to see if he was capable of rejoining society.

But yesterday he was being sought by police after he failed to turn up for sentencing over a string of thefts. Sinclair, who had spent four months in jail on remand, was given a second chance by Temporary Sheriff John McDonald three weeks ago. He was released on bail, pending yesterday's court hearing, on condition that he stayed at a friend's house in Bainsford, Falkirk.

Freda Angus, the friend's wife, said: "Robert came in for less than five minutes. He just said hello. We had a quick chat. Then he said 'That's me away', and he was off. I don't expect to see him again."

Sinclair, noted for his survival skills, had launched sporadic raids on isolated farms, caravans and barns, stealing tins of food, clothes, toiletries and drink. Although jobless, he claimed no state benefits and lived in makeshift camps and outhouses. He was caught after a farmer noticed training-shoe prints in the mud around his barn. The farmer was suspicious as all the farm workers wore wellington boots. Police were called and found the hermit's den near by.

Sinclair pleaded guilty in January to 14 charges of theft between December 1997 and October 1998. Yesterday Sheriff Robert Younger issued a warrant for his arrest. Central Scotland Police said that the search would be widespread as Sinclair was known to wander for miles through countryside and woodlands.

Hair X-ray can reveal risk of breast cancer

Nigel Hawkes reports on a simple screening system

HAIR could be used as a simple screening test for breast cancer, scientists in Australia have found.

The molecular structure of hair shows subtle differences in women who either have breast cancer or carry the gene, BRCA1, which indicates a much higher risk of succumbing to the disease.

Dr Veronica James of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, with colleagues in Japan and America, says that the changes are so consistent that they could be used for screening purposes. They appear to involve alterations to the fatty layers in the membrane that binds the hair molecules together. These changes occur as the hair is formed in the hair follicle, the team says in *Nature*, although it is not yet clear why breast cancer or a predisposition to it should cause such changes.

The team used hair samples — taken from the scalp or the pubic area — supplied by colleagues at the Cancer Research Campaign's Christie Research Centre in Manchester. The hairs were suspended in an X-ray beam and the diffraction pattern observed. The wavelengths of X-rays are close to the spacing of atoms in molecules, which means that the pattern of scattering of the X-rays as they pass through molecules can be used to work out molecular structure.

In this case, the team tested 23 hairs from cancer patients and 28 from healthy women. All the former showed an additional diffuse ring in the X-ray diffraction pattern, which absent from all but four of the 28 healthy women.

They also looked at hair samples from women believed to be at high risk of breast cancer, because they have close relations who suffer and carry a mutation of the breast cancer gene, BRCA1. Three out of five showed the full changes seen in the breast cancer patients and the other two showed a partial change. The team says that hair taken from the scalp can give misleading results if the hair has been permed within the past three months; pubic hair gives better results.

They conclude: "We correctly identified all the samples from women with breast cancer, but further investigation into the sensitivity and specificity of this test is necessary. It is possible that this may lead to a simple and reliable screening method for breast cancer using a single pubic hair."

□ German scientists have found that substances that make brain cells grow are also important for the growth of hair follicles. This could lead to new cures for baldness, they say, or to new ways of keeping unwanted body hair at bay.

Dr Ralf Paus, of the University Hospital in Hamburg, told *New Scientist* that it was not too far fetched to propose using brain-derived neurotrophic factor and neurotrophin-4 for hair disorders, "particularly if you can apply them topically in lotions".

SPLITTING HAIRS

Hair analysis has a chequered history (Nigel Hawkes writes). Examining mineral content can detect high levels of heavy metals, such as lead, but there are few grounds for more ambitious claims. Many corporations use hair analysis to detect drug abuse, but there are dangers. Dark hair seems to accumulate more cocaine than light hair, for example, so tests may be unfair to some ethnic groups.



Hadassa Carmon and her husband Arie. Mrs Carmon, who has cancer, was given the all-clear in BUPA screening but could not sue the insurer

BUPA patient demands reforms

By Dominic Kennedy

A WOMAN struggling to beat cancer after being given the all-clear three times by BUPA breast screening is calling on MPs to tighten controls on private health insurance. Hadassa Carmon's plight is to be studied by the Commons Health Committee, which is inquiring into regulation of independent healthcare.

Mrs Carmon, 59, received £143,000 from Janet Page, the radiologist responsible for her second screening, in an out-of-court settlement. The patient, from Reigate, Surrey, had to withdraw her writ against BUPA after learning, to her distress, that the insurer had no responsibility for doctors' actions.

Mrs Carmon, a secretary, had a "well-woman" screening through BUPA, including a mammogram, in 1992. The doctor asked her to return within a year after what appeared to be a benign calcification was seen. After eight months she was told there was no significant change. A year later, the same happened.

In 1994, while on holiday in Israel, she consulted a GP about back pain. He found a breast lump. It was too late to operate — the cancer had spread, so she began chemotherapy and radiation. "It is a pretty lousy life," she said yesterday from Tel Aviv, where she is being treated. "I have a lot of pains. I can hardly move. I feel sick."

Mrs Carmon and her husband Arie, an engineer, were told they could sue only the doctor in the second screening.

The insurer is responsible for the management of hospitals such as Gatwick Park, where Mrs Carmon was screened, and for nursing and equipment. Doctors provided under BUPA insurance are independent contractors, with full clinical responsibility for patients. Had a NHS doctor failed her, she would have been able to sue the trust. Mr Carmon says BUPA should be legally responsible for quality of care, as an incentive to raise standards.

Ian Fentiman, of Guy's Hospital's breast clinic, said that if a woman with a lump was referred to an NHS clinic, it "will take a history, examine her, do a mammogram and do everything necessary. Too many people just go along [privately] and have a mammogram and if the mammogram is all right they assume they haven't got cancer."

BUPA said last night: "Complaints to BUPA hospitals are taken very seriously indeed". If a patient sued a consultant, "we would investigate the complaint thoroughly. We looked at the complaint and we have had no reason to investigate further into Dr Page."

Consultants work hard for time off

By Helen Johnstone

HOSPITAL consultants are pioneering a scheme that allows them to work longer shifts in return for three months off.

The scheme followed a request by one consultant to have time off last year with his new baby. Phillip Hormbrey crammed 15 months' work into a year at the accident and emergency department at The John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford. He said: "It was physically hard but it was well worth doing. It was an opportunity I would not otherwise have had." The scheme has been extended to other consultants in the department.

David Skinner, one of the others now working extra sessions, said the scheme improved continuity of care, divided work more evenly and reduced stress because staff could get away from it all if they had built up the hours.

Makers 'blocked safer cigarettes'

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE tobacco industry has researched and then ignored hundreds of patents for safer cigarettes that could have saved tens of thousands of lives over the past 25 years, anti-smoking campaigners said yesterday.

The patents are said to range from additives such as citric acid, which neutralises some of the 3,000-plus dangerous compounds found in a cigarette, to tiny catalytic converters, working like those on cars.

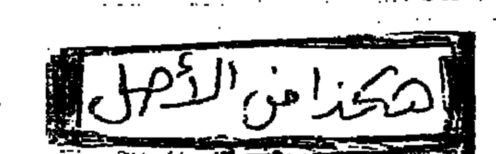
The report by ASH and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund also said that the European Union should require tobacco companies to measure and disclose the hazardous constituents of tobacco smoke, and then take steps to reduce them.

The report — which was launched in the Patent Office in London — includes inventions to reduce everything from tar, carbon monoxide and nitric oxide to hydrogen sulphide and potassium. Many were patented by tobacco companies.

Clive Bates, director of ASH, said tobacco firms knew how to make safer cigarettes but doing so would cause problems for them. "There would be a legal one because by making a safer cigarette they would acknowledge that they are dangerous. There is a marketing one because to sell their product they need to create a sex, glamour, fast-car image.

"There is a cost headache and there is the headache that if they removed one substance they would then be made to start removing other ones."

John Carlisle of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association rejected the claims and said that the industry had been working for more than 20 years to make safer cigarettes. "Just because something is patented doesn't mean it works."





1999, YEAR OF THE ELECTIONS: THE PLAYERS AND THE POLICIES

■ *X still marks the spot for the European, local and assembly elections this year, but voters must use different systems for each. Will they get your vote?*

PR creates the virtual contest

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

EUROPE

THE 2nd Earl of Stockton and Terrye Jones are direct political rivals but do not know each other. The Tory peer and the Liberal Democrat businesswoman are effectively competing for the same European seat but have never met.

Mrs Jones knows only that her opponent is the grandson of Harold Macmillan, the former Prime Minister. Lord Stockton knows only that the Cornish mother of three stood unsuccessfully for Falmouth and Camborne at the 1997 general election.

They have not bumped into each other campaigning on the doorstep. Neither has criticised each other's policies in a press release or speech. Yet both know that one of them will be elected to Strasbourg and one will not.

This curiously novel brand of political competition is a clear result of the new system of proportional representation for the Euro-poll on June 10.

Seven seats are up for grabs in the South West, a conglomerate of seven counties, 51 Westminster constituencies, and 3.5 million voters. Barring extraordinary swings, Labour, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats are likely to win two seats apiece. So the battle is on for the remaining seventh seat.

With Labour unlikely to get another seat, the campaign is effectively between Lord Stockton and Mrs Jones. Both know that to win, their parties have to secure about 36 per cent of the vote across the region, by no means an easy task.

Lord Stockton's vote could be hit by hardline anti and pro-European groups luring Tory supporters away. The Liberal Democrats would need huge gains to reach the required total, despite their traditional strength in the region.

For Lord Stockton, 56, the hurdles are obvious. "Someone who manufactures missile systems in Gloucester and someone who fillets fish in Newquay are somewhat different, and trying to make them think they are affected by the same issues is difficult."

The peer, president of the Macmillan publishing group, stood for Strasbourg in 1994 and is known within the Tory party as a moderate on European issues.

Asked why he is standing, he replies: "As Europe develops, there are bound to be disputes between the sovereign nation states. Is is not better for me to be trying to sort them out in Brussels or Strasbourg, rather than my son in Normandy or Flanders?"

Lord Stockton is a keen supporter of hunting and shooting, but despite his image as a typical hereditary peer, he has long experience of the democratic process. His strategy is simple: "We are trying to stop people staying at home because they are unhappy about the whole European thing."

Mrs Jones, 46, takes a similar view. The managing director of KCS Trade Print, a Launceston-based company employing 27 people, said: "The issue here is to maximise turnout on the day. In the general election, we had about 80 per cent here. In the European elections, you would be lucky to get 40 per cent."

She is worried about voter and activist fatigue after the local elections in May. "We have to get people motivated to pull those voters in between the district and Euro-elections."

PAUL SLATER

Terrye Jones, a businesswoman, is competing against an opponent she has never met

Michael's future in the hands of the nationalists

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

WALES

RHODRI GLYN THOMAS is the Plaid Cymru saviour who can help Labour's Alun Michael to become the First Secretary of the Welsh assembly. The Welsh Secretary's future is said to rest on whether Mr Thomas wins the Labour-held Westminster seat of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr for the nationalists. That would guarantee Mr Michael's place as head of the Mid and West Wales PR list.

Forty seats will be elected by first past the post, and 20 by proportional representation.

Support for Plaid Cymru is running at 20 per cent in Wales, compared to 10 per cent at the last election.

Mr Thomas, 45, is fighting hard to win the seat for himself and to help Plaid Cymru to return the most members. "I have been told that people with beards are unelectable. Well, I am determined to prove them wrong."

He believes there is a real chance that Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru leader, could be First Secretary. "Plaid Cymru is not interested in Alun Michael's political future as an individual, we want to be the force inside the assembly, and if the swing continues, we could be in the position of sharing power with Labour or being the majority party."

Nor has he detected any ploy in the Labour campaign to hand over victory. Chris Llewellyn, director of the Consumer Council in Wales, is putting up a strong contest for Labour in the string of Welsh towns such as Ammanford, Newcastle Emlyn and Llandovery which are scattered throughout the constituency.

Mr Thomas admits that Labour voters are pledging to vote for him, but says that it is more to do with disillusionment with Labour than any tactic to ensure Mr Michael's place as First Secretary.

"We have done a telephone canvass of 15,000 voters, a quarter of the constituency, and there is a lot of anger with Labour. They feel the leadership was stitched up and they are deeply frustrated with Labour's internal politics which they believe does not represent their own views.

"Plaid Cymru has gained by this for people are turning to us to represent their views and concerns."

Mr Thomas is also incensed that senior Labour figures in Wales appear to be rather complacent. "None of them have been selected for the assembly yet, and the result is not a foregone conclusion. There are strong reasons to believe that people will vote differently for the assembly than they did for the Westminster Parliament."

Old friends re-emerge as enemies for Dewar

SCOTLAND

By Jason Allardyce
Scottish Political Reporter

DONALD DEWAR always was an awkward member of the brown ale brigade which ruled the Labour Party in Scotland in the 1980s.

As he prepares to become leader of Scotland's first parliament in 300 years, he does not spend much time harking back to the days when principles rather than power seemed to be all that mattered.

He may have stood shoulder to shoulder with Tommy Graham, Dennis Canavan and Tommy Sheridan as they waged a bitter war against Thatcherism, but he and the party no longer say much about privatisation or nuclear weapons. Messrs Graham and Sheridan have been expelled for bringing the party into disrepute and Mr Canavan is about to be thrown out.

Mr Dewar's problem is that his three old friends have invited themselves to the Holyrood party clutching a carry-out of old scores to settle.

Twenty-stone, chain-smoking Tommy Graham has a voice that is difficult to silence. It is said that he gargles every morning with gravel. The West Renfrewshire MP was expelled last year after an internal investigation into allegations of membership irregularities and factionalism in his constituency. He is plotting revenge as an Independent candidate in Paisley against Wendy Alexander, a former adviser to Mr Dewar who he blames for his downfall.

If he fails to win in the first-past-the-post section, he may secure 7 per cent of the PR vote in the west of Scotland.

"Proportional representation stinks — I prefer the first-past-the-post system"

Tommy Sheridan, expelled in 1989 for leading a poll tax non-payment campaign, could prove even more problematic as a PR member. If he can get his Scottish Socialist Party registered, the man dubbed the Robin Hood of Scottish politics stands an excellent chance of being returned in Glasgow.

The populist city councillor does not invite comparisons with Derek Hatton but his Militant past makes them inevitable and he could enjoy an equally high profile as he argues for higher taxes.

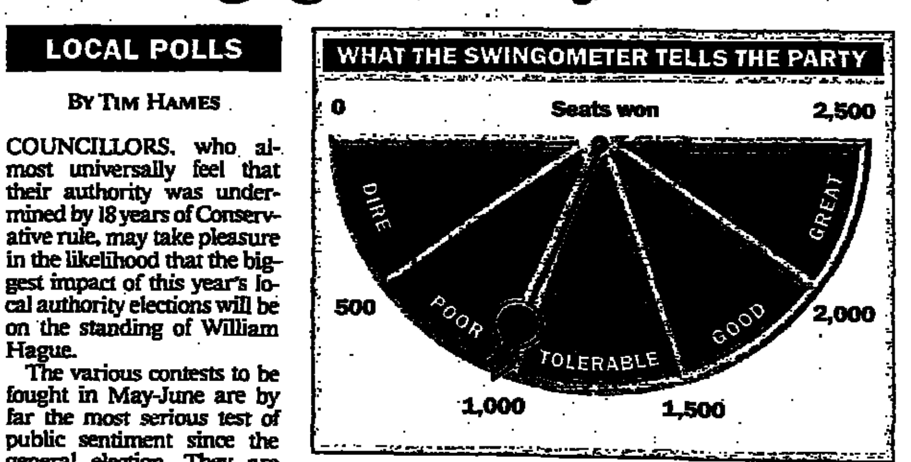
Dennis Canavan could be the most troublesome of all after being rejected by Labour as a Holyrood candidate. The Falkirk West MP claims he fell victim to an ideological cull after voting against benefit cuts for single mothers and the bombing of Baghdad. The trouble for Mr Dewar is that many colleagues agree with him. He would be prepared to use his position as an Independent in a hung parliament to help to outvote Labour.

Scotland may be blazing a trail on constitutional reform but if this is what it means for Labour, Tony Blair may wish to pause before giving Westminster a taste of Scotland's medicine.

Hague's survival rests on big gains by Tories

LOCAL POLLS

By Tim Hames



COUNCILLORS, who almost universally feel that their authority was undermined by 18 years of Conservative rule, may take pleasure in the likelihood that the biggest impact of this year's local authority elections will be on the standing of William Hague.

The various contests to be fought in May-June are by far the most serious test of public sentiment since the general election. They are also the biggest sample until the next one and are thus critical for the Conservative leadership.

The Tories enter the local elections on May 6 knowing that all expectations rest with them. These contests are based in areas of England and Wales last contested in May 1995. This was the absolute low point of the Major years. The Conservatives won scarcely 25 per cent of votes, the worst such result recorded, lost 59 councils, and 1,885 council seats. This followed elections in May 1991 that were also unimpressive for the Tories. Labour, on the other hand, won 44 per cent of the vote, an accurate forecast of the 1997 outcome.

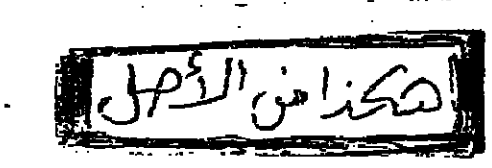
The various changes in local government make exact comparison difficult. In 1995, for example, the Scottish local elections were held in April, while the rest of Great Britain went to the polls four weeks later.

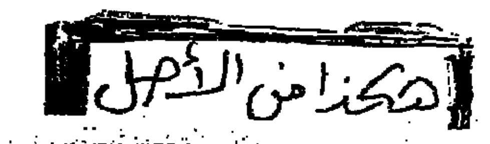
This year all parts of the kingdom will do political business at the same time. The alterations to the structure of English councils also make matters more confusing. Nonetheless, the broad trend indicated here applies.

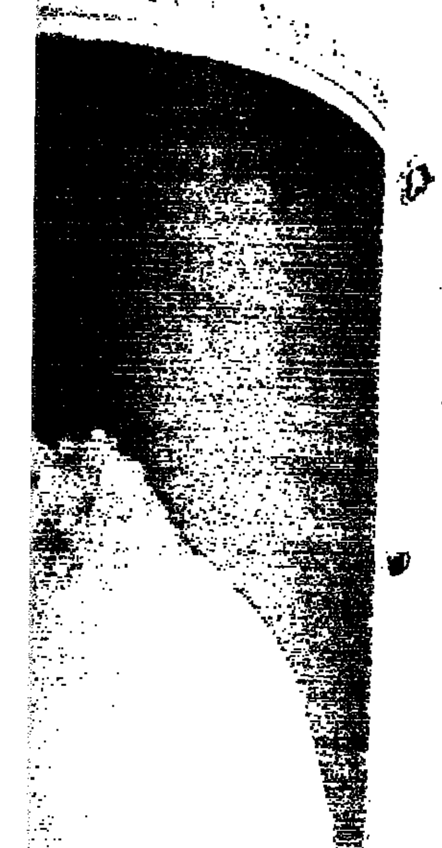
The Leader of the Opposition knows that his party must make huge gains or there will be renewed speculation about his leadership. Anything less than a 500-seat advance would imply another massive Labour majority at the next general election. In fact a larger Labour majority would be plausible. The European elections in June would then be make or break for his tenure.

A pick-up of between 500 and 1,000 seats would be distinctly unimpressive. If the European result was also lacklustre, Mr Hague would face a very difficult party conference.

A gain of 1,000 or 1,500 seats would be the minimum acceptable — although hardly inspiring. Anything more, 1,500 to 2,000 seats, would be a bonus, suggesting the party had at least shaken off the Major legacy. More than 2,000 seats would see the champagne flowing at Conservative Central Office. At the moment, though, moderate white wine seems much more likely.







1999, YEAR OF THE ELECTIONS: HOW IT WORKS

SCOTTISH AND WELSH ASSEMBLIES

Elections to the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly will be under the additional member system, similar to that used in Germany. Everyone has two votes. One is cast for constituency members elected on the same first-past-the-post basis as members of the House of Commons and representing the same districts. There will be 73 constituency members in the new Scottish parliament (one more than the number of Scottish members at Westminster since Orkney and Shetland is being split into two).

Everyone will have a second vote to elect top-up members (a total of 56 in Scotland). People will mark an X against lists of candidates drawn up by the various parties. These lists will operate on a regional level, using use the eight European Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland (each of seven to ten Westminster constituencies).

The total votes cast for a party in a region are divided by the number of seats won (including constituency members) plus one. The largest total wins. The calculation is then redone at every stage taking account of each seat awarded.

EUROPEAN

Elections will be on the basis of regional lists. Some of these regions are huge: the South East will stretch from Milton Keynes to Dover with 11 European Parliament members.

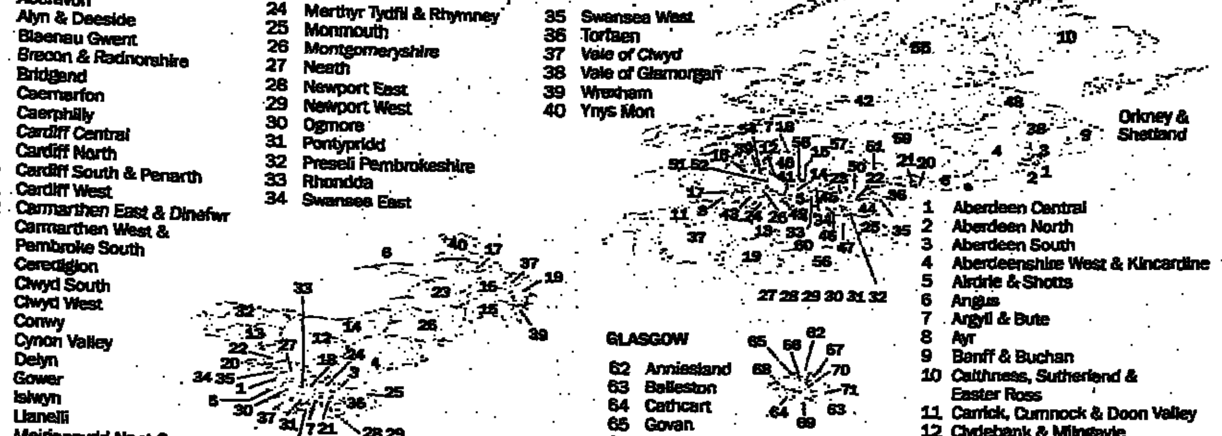
Registered parties will nominate lists of candidates. Voters will mark an X against the party or an individual candidate, but they will have no choice between candidates on a party's list.

The first seat will be allocated to the party or individual candidate with the highest number of votes. The second and subsequent seats are allocated on a similar formula to the top-up seats in Scotland or Wales. Thus, if the Tories win the first seat in a region, their vote will then be divided by two, and compared with the other votes until the necessary number is elected.

LOCAL

Elections to the House of Commons and to local councils will continue to be under the familiar first-past-the-post system under which a voter places an X against the candidate of his or her choice and the winner is the one with the most votes, regardless of whether this is more than 50 per cent of the total votes cast.

ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES



WALES

1 Aberavon
2 Alyn & Deeside
3 Blaenau Gwent
4 Brecon & Radnorshire
5 Bridgend
6 Caernarfon
7 Caerphilly
8 Cardiff Central
9 Cardiff North
10 Cardiff South & Penarth
11 Cardiff West
12 Carmarthen East & Dinefwr
13 Carmarthen West & Pembroke South
14 Ceredigion
15 Clwyd South
16 Clwyd West
17 Conwy
18 Cynon Valley
19 Delyn
20 Gower
21 Islwyn
22 Llanelli
23 Meirionnydd Nant Conwy
24 Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
25 Monmouth
26 Montgomeryshire
27 Neath
28 Newport East
29 Newport West
30 Ogmore
31 Pontypridd
32 Preseli Pembrokeshire
33 Rhondda
34 Swansea East
35 Swansea West
36 Torfaen
37 Vale of Clwyd
38 Vale of Glamorgan
39 Wrexham
40 Ynys Mon

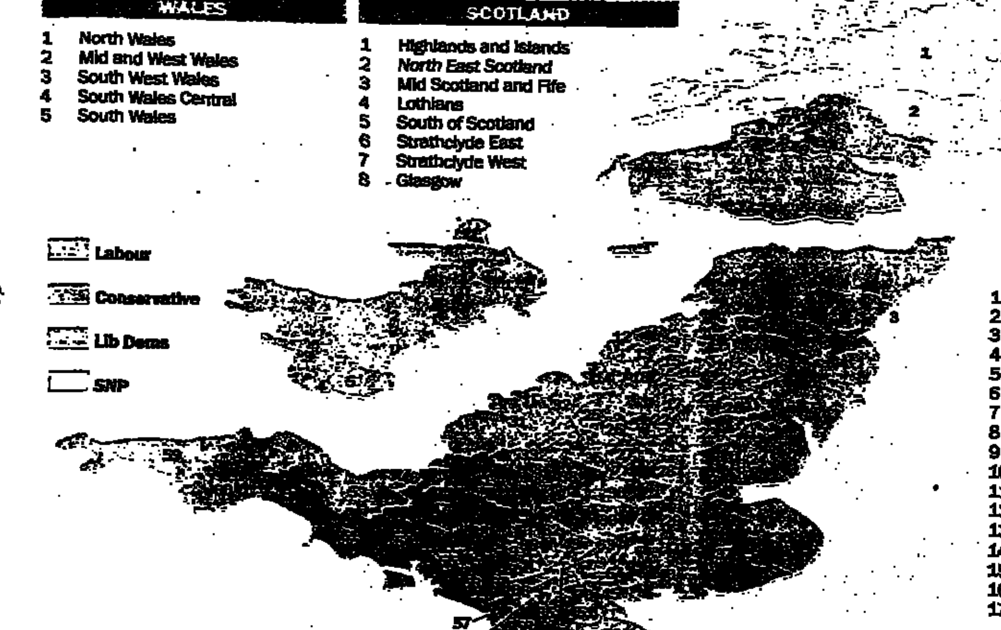
SCOTLAND

1 Aberdeen Central
2 Aberdeen North
3 Aberdeen South
4 Aberdeenshire West & Kincardine
5 Airdrie & Shotts
6 Angus
7 Argyll & Bute
8 Ayr
9 Banff & Buchan
10 Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross
11 Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley
12 Clydebank & Milngavie
13 Clydesdale
14 Coatbridge & Chryston
15 Cumbernauld & Kilsyth
16 Cunninghame North
17 Cunninghame South
18 Dumbarton
19 Dumfries
20 Dundee East
21 Dundee West
22 Dunfermline East
23 Dunfermline West
24 East Kilbride
25 East Lothian
26 Eastwood
27 Edinburgh Central
28 Edinburgh East & Musselburgh
29 Edinburgh North & Leith
30 Edinburgh Pentlands
31 Edinburgh South
32 Edinburgh West
33 Falkirk East
34 Falkirk West
35 Fife Central
36 Fife North East
37 Galloway & Upper Nithsdale
38 Gordon
39 Greenock & Inverclyde
40 Hamilton North & Bellshill
41 Hamilton South
42 Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber
43 Kilmarnock & Loudoun
44 Kirkcaldy
45 Linlithgow
46 Livingston
47 Midlothian
48 Moray
49 Motherwell & Wishaw
50 Ochil
51 Perth
52 Paisley North
53 Paisley South
54 Renfrewshire West
55 Ross, Skye & Inverness West
56 Roxburgh & Berwickshire
57 Stirling
58 Strathkelvin & Bearsden
59 Tayside North
60 Tweeddale, Ettrick & Lauderdale
61 Western Isles

GLASGOW
62 Anniesland
63 Baillieston
64 Cathcart
65 Govan
66 Kelvin

Orkney & Shetland

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS



WALES

1 North Wales
2 Mid and West Wales
3 South West Wales
4 South Wales Central
5 South Wales

SCOTLAND

1 Highlands and Islands
2 North East Scotland
3 Mid Scotland and Fife
4 Lothians
5 South of Scotland
6 Strathclyde East
7 Strathclyde West
8 Glasgow

Labour
Conservative
Lib Dems
SNP

ENGLAND

1 Northumbria
2 Cumbria and Lancashire North
3 Tyne and Wear
4 Durham
5 Cleveland and Richmond
6 North Yorkshire
7 Humberside
8 Lancashire Central
9 Lancashire South
10 YorkshireWest
11 Leeds
12 Merseyside West
13 MerseysideEast and Wigan
14 Cheshire West and Wirral
15 Greater Manchester West
16 Greater Manchester East
17 Greater Manchester Central
18 Cheshire East
19 Yorkshire South West
20 Yorkshire South
21 Sheffield
22 Peak District
23 Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield
24 Lincolnshire and Humberside South
25 Staffordshire West and Congleton
26 Staffordshire East and Derby
27 Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire North West
28 Leicester
29 Cambridgeshire
30 Norfolk
31 Herefordshire and Shropshire
32 Birmingham West
33 Midlands West
34 Birmingham East
35 Coventry and Warwickshire
36 Northamptonshire and Blaby
37 Suffolk and South West Norfolk
38 Worcestershire and South Warwickshire
39 Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes
40 Essex North and Suffolk South
41 The Cotswolds
42 Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire East
43 Hertfordshire
44 Essex West and Hertfordshire East
45 Essex South
46 Bristol
47 Wiltshire North and Bath
48 Hampshire North and Oxford
49 Thames Valley
50 Surrey
51 Kent West
52 Kent East
53 Somerset and North Devon
54 Itchen,Test and Avon
55 Wight and Hampshire South
56 South Downs West
57 Sussex South and Crawley
58 East Sussex and Kent South
59 Cornwall and West Plymouth
60 Devon and East Plymouth
61 Dorset and East Devon
62 London North West
63 London North
64 London East
65 London South East
66 London South Inner
67 London South West
68 London West
69 London Central
70 London North East
71 London South and Surrey East

LOCAL ELECTIONS

SCOTLAND

1 Orkney
2 Shetland
3 Highland
4 Comharle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)
5 Moray
6 Aberdeenshire
7 Aberdeen
8 Angus
9 Perth & Kinross
10 Dundee
11 Fife
12 Clackmannanshire
13 Stirling
14 Argyll & Bute
15 West Dunbartonshire
16 Inverclyde
17 East Dunbartonshire
18 Renfrewshire
19 Glasgow
20 North Lanarkshire
21 Falkirk
22 West Lothian
23 Edinburgh
24 Midlothian
25 East Lothian
26 North Ayrshire
27 East Renfrewshire
28 South Ayrshire
29 East Ayrshire
30 South Lanarkshire
31 Scottish Borders
32 Dumfries & Galloway

WALES

1 Anglesey
2 Caernarfon and Merionethshire
3 Aberconwyn and Colwyn
4 Denbighshire
5 Flintshire
6 Wrexham
7 Powys
8 Cardiganshire
9 Pembrokeshire
10 Carmarthenshire
11 Swansea
12 West Glamorgan
13 Bridgend
14 Rhondda Cynon Taff
15 Blaenau Gwent
16 Monmouthshire
17 Torfaen
18 Caerphilly
19 Newport
20 Cardiff
21 Vale of Glamorgan
22 Merthyr Tydfil

Labour
Conservative
Lib Dems
Independent
SNP
Plaid Cymru
No overall control

ENGLAND

1 Adur
2 Amber Valley
3 Barrow-in-Furness
4 Basildon
5 Basingstoke and Deane
6 Bassetlaw
7 Bedford
8 Brentwood
9 Broadland
10 Broxbourne
11 Burnley
12 Cambridge
13 Cannock Chase
14 Carlisle
15 Cheltenham
16 Cherwell
17 Chester
18 Chorley
19 Colchester
20 Congleton
21 Craven
22 Crawley
23 Crewe and Nantwich
24 Daventry
25 Eastbourne
26 Eastleigh
27 Ellesmere Port and Neston
28 Elmbridge
29 Epping Forest
30 Exeter
31 Fareham
32 Gloucester
33 Gosport
34 Great Yarmouth
35 Harlow
36 Harrogate
37 Hart
38 Hastings
39 Havant
40 Hertsmere
41 Huntingdon
42 Hyndburn
43 Ipswich
44 Lincoln
45 Macclesfield
46 Maidstone
47 Mole Valley
48 Newcastle-under-Lyme
49 North Hertfordshire
50 Norwich
51 Nuneaton and Bedworth
52 Oxford
53 Pendle
54 Penwith
55 Preston
56 Purbeck
57 Redditch
58 Reigate and Banstead
59 Rochford
60 Rossendale
61 Rugby
62 Runnymede
63 Rushmoor
64 Shrewsbury and Atcham
65 South Bedfordshire
66 South Cambridgeshire
67 South Lakeland
68 St Albans
69 Stevenage
70 Stratford-on-Avon
71 Stroud
72 Swale
73 Tamworth
74 Tandridge
75 Three Rivers
76 Tunbridge Wells
77 Watford
78 Waveney
79 Welwyn Hatfield
80 West Lancashire
81 West Lindsey
82 West Oxfordshire
83 Weymouth and Portland
84 Winchester
85 Woking
86 Worcester
87 Worthing
88 Wyre Forest

Unitary Authorities
89 Bristol
90 Bath and North East Somerset
91 Blackburn and Darwen
92 Bournemouth
93 Brighton and Hove
94 Darlington
95 Derby
96 East Riding of Yorkshire
97 Halton
98 Hartlepool
99 Kingston-upon-Hull
100 Leicester
101 Luton
102 Middlesbrough
103 Milton Keynes
104 N E Lincolnshire
105 North Lincolnshire
106 North Somerset
107 Peterborough
108 Poole
109 Portsmouth
110 Reading
111 Redcar
112 Rutland
113 Slough
114 Southampton
115 Southend-on-Sea
116 South Gloucestershire
117 Stockton-on-Tees
118 Stoke-on-Trent
119 Swindon
120 Thurrock
121 Warrington
122 Wokingham
123 York
114 Southampton
115 Southend-on-Sea
116 South Gloucestershire
117 Stockton-on-Tees
118 Stoke-on-Trent
119 Swindon
120 Thurrock
121 Warrington
122 Wokingham
123 York

Experiment will be test for parties and voters

By Peter Riddell

BRITAIN is about to inaugurate its most far-reaching constitutional and electoral experiment. On May 6, voters in Scotland and Wales will elect devolved legislatures. Both in these elections and those for the European Parliament on June 10, all adults in Great Britain will have their first chance of voting in elections under proportional representation, as well as the familiar first-past-the-post system.

This year's elections are the most extensive before the next general election. Not only will everyone have a vote in the European elections, but roughly 85 per cent of England, and all of Scotland and Wales, will also have elections for local councils. The exceptions are the London boroughs and some unitary, single-tier authorities in England. The elections will be a major test of the popularity of the Government and the recovery of the Tory party under William Hague. Interpretation will be complicated by comparison with seats last fought in 1995 and also by the impact of the Liberal Democrats. In many areas there is not so much a three-party system as differing two-party systems with the Liberal Democrats fighting Labour in big cities and industrial areas and challenging the Tories in rural areas and small towns.

Much depends on local campaigns and on the character of local authorities. A widespread expectation is that the Tories may gain seats in what used to be seen as safe areas from the Liberal Democrats and Labour, while Labour is vulnerable to the Liberal Democrats in urban areas, especially in the North.

One direct result is likely to be that Labour will be in overall control of fewer councils. That will increase the chances of conflict between town halls and Whitehall, about not only the level of central grants, but also implementation of education and other reforms.

Turnout in the European elections has traditionally been low, less than half the level of general elections. But will this be boosted by PR, since voters in every part of the country will have a chance of having someone from their party elected? PR offers the Tories the prospect of gaining more

THE SYSTEM

seats, not just in the European elections but also in Scotland and Wales, than under first past the post.

The test for the Tory leadership is how far it makes the European elections a battle over the single currency. This might rally core supporters, but it risks aggravating internal divisions, especially since Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine now publicly back Tony Blair's approach.

A further twist is the formation of the Pro-European Conservative Party by John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, MEPs who left the party over Europe after failing to be selected as official candidates. The new party may field candidates in London and the South East.

Most attention is likely to be on the Scottish and Welsh elections. Because of PR, the outcomes are far from certain. Labour, which won 56 out of the 72 Scottish seats in the 1997 general election, is not expected to win an overall majority on May 6, and will probably have to govern in coalition with the Liberal Democrats. While the Scottish Nationalists are not expected to win an overall majority, they could emerge as by far the largest opposition party. Their dream, and Labour's nightmare, is that Labour and the Liberal Democrats together will not have a majority,and will depend on Tory support.

Labour is in a much stronger position in Wales in the face of more evenly divided opposition parties, although its standing may have been affected by the battle for the Labour leadership in the elections.

The results will matter not just for devolution but also for the prospects of coalition politics on a national scale. If Labour and the Liberal Democrats can work together in Scotland, that will influence the debate at Westminster about cooperation between them.

The elections will also be a test for PR. How will voters cope with a complicated new system, or rather systems? The additional member system will be used in Scotland and Wales; the party list system in the European elections.

Leading article, page 23

TOP-UP EXAMPLE

Where Labour wins five out of eight constituency seats in a region, the SNP two and Tories one; Labour gets 125,000 votes, SNP 90,000, Tories 62,000, Lib Dems 40,000. Under the formula for top-up seats by which votes cast are divided by seats won plus one, Labour would have 20,800 votes, the SNP 30,000, Tories 30,000 and Lib Dems 40,000. So the Lib Dems would take the first seat. When this formula is repeated for all six top-up seats, the Lib Dems get one, the Tories and SNP two each, and Labour one. Overall, Labour ends up with six seats, SNP four, Tories three, Lib Dems one. Simple, eh?

Councillors face battle with apathy as well as political rivals

By Alexandra Frean
Local Government Correspondent

THE big question surrounding this year's local government elections in England is not who will win but how many people will bother to vote.

The turnout for last year's council polls was only 26 per cent. In Salford, less than one in five made the trip to the polling booth.

The decline was largely a result of the changes in central government. During nearly 20 years of Conservative rule, Labour supporters were keen to cast a vote locally to register their disapproval of the Government. But now opinion polls show high support for Labour, eliminating the prospect of a large anti-government protest vote. It remains to be seen how Conservative supporters, who traditionally do not show a high turnout at local elections, respond.

Gerry Stoker, Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University, believes that the local government system in England could be discredited if turnout does not show a healthy rise on May 6. "We are getting close to meltdown in terms of legitimacy. When a political system can muster so few potential voters it is in need of a quite radical overhaul to bring it back into democratic accountability," he said.

TOWN HALLS

The main beneficiaries of the democratic deficit in English local government are likely to be the Liberal Democrats. With the Conservatives too weak to offer a real challenge to Labour in urban areas, the most effective alternative to the status quo will be a vote for Lib Dem councillors. The party is on course to make significant gains in Sheffield, where there has been only one year since the war when Labour has not been in control, and in Newcastle and Leeds. Wales is likely to share the apathy of England. Tony Travers, local government expert at the London School of Economics, said: "The Tories have died out significantly in Welsh local government. Will it be the nationalists or the Liberal Democrats who are best be able to exploit any Labour lack of popularity?"

The picture for the Scottish local elections is quite different. Interest in politics has been heightened by the Scottish parliament campaign. The turnout for the devolution referendum was 60 per cent.

Any anti-government surge in urban Scotland is likely to benefit Scottish National Party candidates. Professor Stoker believes, however, that Labour's dominance is unlikely seriously to be dented.

MASSACRE IN THE JUNGLE


The camp in Bwindi National Park, shortly after the Rwandan rebels struck. The park will now be permanently guarded by the Ugandan Army

Uganda vows to hunt down forest killers

Robin Lodge and Stephen Farrell in Kampala, on Museveni's fury

PRESIDENT Museveni of Uganda yesterday expressed regret that his Government had not done enough to protect eight foreign tourists — including four Britons — who were hacked to death in a Uganda national park. He promised that his army would pursue the Rwandan rebels responsible across the Congolese border until they were captured or killed.

Mr Museveni, who has been credited with restoring stability and economic order to Uganda after 15 years of chaos and horror under Idi Amin and Milton Obote, said the killings vindicated his decision last August to send troops into the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they have been helping rebel forces trying to topple the regime of President Kabila. "We were right to take firm action from the start. That is why our army went into Congo — to prevent bloodshed spilling over the entire region," Mr Museveni told a press conference at State House in the Ugandan capital, Kampala.

But he said his Government had been guilty of laxity and oversight in failing to deploy troops to protect tourists visiting the Bwindi National Park, home to Uganda's rare mountain gorillas.

He said he was aware of the danger from cross-border raids in other border areas and had sent troops there, despite fears that this would deter tourists from visiting. But he said he did not know of the specific risk in Bwindi.

"Unfortunately, I did not have the intuition with Bwindi, because I had never been there. But the Government should not have to depend on the President's intuition," he said.

He vowed that the park, also known as the Impenetrable Forest, would now be permanently guarded by army units and that there would be no further threat from the attackers. They are understood to have been members of the Interahamwe Hutu militia, which was responsible for the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda.

The eight victims of Monday's slaughter, who included four women, were among 14 tourists abducted early on Monday by more than 100 militiamen. The survivors were forced to march for nine hours through jungle-covered hills before being released at the Congolese border. In a note handed to one of them, the attackers said their aim was to destabilise Uganda — a close ally of the Tutsi-led regime in Rwanda — to wreak economic chaos in the region, and to tell the world there was a war going on.

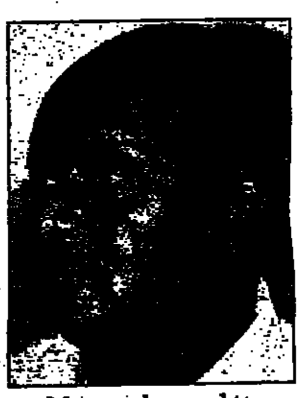
But some survivors said it appeared that anglophone tourists were carefully selected for killing to warn the United States and Britain to end what is seen as their support for the Congolese rebel movement against President Kabila.

Mr Museveni said he had sent a battalion of troops into Congo to hunt the attackers. "If we do not catch them, we will kill them," he said. He rejected the notion that Uganda had provoked such attacks by its military presence in Congo. "Our troops in Congo — they know their address. They should go and fight them. Why attack civilians — women and children, who have nothing to do with politics?"

Michael Cook, the British High Commissioner in Kampala, said last night that targeting tourist camps was a "new departure" which had "great security implications".

Mr Cook, tourist officials and the President said they were unaware of any leaflets threatening attacks on specific locations or Britons and Americans. He would investigate such claims, but insisted that no such threats had been brought to his attention beforehand. "These are not people who usually think in a straight line. Their record in Rwanda shows that."

Killing machine, page 21


Museveni: vowed to avenge victims

French envoy 'did all she could'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French Deputy Ambassador to Uganda, Anne Peltier, did everything she could to save the British and American tourists hacked to death on Monday, René Roudaut, the French Ambassador in Kampala, said yesterday.

M Roudaut said that Mme Peltier, 52, had shown presence of mind and courage when Hutu extremists descended on the camp, where she was staying with her two daughters, a friend of theirs and an embassy employee.

The Ambassador's comments came after the massacre of the eight holidaymakers re-ignited controversy over France's role in arming and allegedly protecting the Interahamwe militia.

Critics say that the French authorities continue to give at least tacit backing to the militia that was behind the killings on Monday. M Roudaut said

THE DIPLOMAT

that Mme Peltier, who was in the Bwindi National Park on the safari, had created a sort of common language with them. She entered into conversation with them to try to buy time." The rebels were wondering who they should leave and who they should take with them. Mme Peltier said: 'You should leave everyone'."

When it became clear that some of the tourists would be taken hostage, Mme Peltier tried to convince the Interahamwe to release the women and children, M Roudaut said. However, four women were killed.

Mme Peltier's youngest daughter, aged 12, had burst into tears when the Hutu extremists appeared, the Ambassador said, adding: "That might help to explain why the group of French people were left behind." Mme Peltier returned to Kampala on Tuesday with her daughters, but was not at work yesterday.

Hatred rooted in colonial struggle

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE English-speaking tourists killed by the Hutu militia, while their French-speaking friends were spared, were victims of the "Fashoda syndrome", a French obsession that Anglo-Saxons are trying to take over Central Africa.

Paris's support for the genocidal Hutu regime in Rwanda, in 1994 and after its overthrow, saved the French tourists in the Bwindi National Park. The Anglo-Saxon tourists were punished for their Governments' support for Uganda and their Tutsi allies, in a way the Hutus, who killed a million Tutsis, know best — with clubs and machetes.

The "Fashoda Incident" dates back 100 years to when Britain frustrated French hopes of controlling Sudan. Since then it has been obsessed that perfidious Albion has been plotting to end its influence in Africa.

RIVAL EMPIRES

The ultimate proof was the 1990 invasion of Rwanda by Tutsis from Uganda, where they had lived as refugees for 30 years. The Tutsis invaded, speaking English and Swahili. Four years later, on taking power, they confirmed French fears when they made English the joint official language alongside French. Paris ignored a UN arms ban on Rwanda and supplied Hutus in Congo camps with weapons.

US Green Berets trained Tutsi soldiers, who two years later stormed the camps and killed many Hutus, entrenching Hutu and French hatred of the Anglo-Saxons in Central Africa.

Friends with a love of travel parted by death

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH AND ADRIAN LEE

TWO of those caught up in the Ugandan forest kidnappings were friends who played for the same amateur football team. One survived; his teammate did not.

As the parents of Gary Tappenden spoke yesterday of their relief and prepared for his homecoming, relatives of Martin Friend were making arrangements to have his body repatriated.

The two, who lived less than two miles apart were forwards with Coney Rangers, in the Bromley and District league, in Kent. They met on a backpacking trip to Australia three years ago and, this year, put their careers on hold to travel round Africa.

Both sets of parents kept in close contact as they spent Tuesday waiting for news from Uganda. In the afternoon came confirmation that Mr Tappenden, 28, a quantity surveyor, was safe but Mr Friend, 24, was among the dead. His father, Ron, a former security manager, and mother Pauline, from Orpington, were too distressed to comment yesterday.

Martin Friend was a former deputy head boy of the Priory school, in Orpington. He completed A levels in history, politics and economics but spurned the chance to go to university, instead travelling to Australia.



Gary Tappenden: was forced to walk barefoot

Andy Edwards, the school's sixth form director, said: "He was a very forceful young man, a strong person and a doer. What a waste. He was the kind of person that whatever he did he would have excelled."

Mr Tappenden's parents, Robert, 52, and Pearl, 49, from Bromley, described how their relief at having spoken to their son was mixed with grief for his travelling companion.

The apparent random nature of the killings added to the bewilderment of the bereaved. It was not clear why the Hutu rebels responsible for the deaths of eight hostages, including four Britons, killed Mr Friend but set Mr Tappenden free.

Mrs Tappenden, a nurse, said: "It was just awful. We were pacing up and down. I didn't know what to do with myself. The hours of waiting were absolute agony. He came on the telephone and asked us if we had heard what had been going on. I was very emotional and shocked, especially after thinking what he had been through. He feared for his life." She said he had been robbed of all his possessions, including his spectacles, and forced to walk bare-footed.

His parents said they believed he owed his life to Mark Ross, an American tour guide. Mr Tappenden said: "The rebels wanted to take Gary with them and a Swiss girl, but Mark Ross could speak their language and after he negotiated with them, they eventually agreed to let Gary stay."

Speaking about Mr Friend's death, Mr Tappenden said: "It is so unfair, he was a smashing lad. I can't express how deep our sympathies are for his family."

The Foreign Office named another victim as Joanne Cotton, from Essex. It is believed that she was a driver for Acacia Expeditions, one of the organisers of the trip. Five of the company's clients died and ten survived.

Mark Avis, 27, who had joint British-New Zealand citizenship survived the massacre but his New Zealand-born wife Rhonda, 27, was among the dead. The couple, who had been married for seven years, were on a round-the-world trip before starting a family.

Tributes were paid yesterday to the fourth British victim, Mark Lindgren, 23, by his former teachers and tutors at Haberdashers' Aske's school, in Elstree, Hertfordshire, and Nottingham University. Mr Lindgren, from St Albans, was about to begin a new job in the City. He achieved three A levels at A grade and came within a few marks of achieving a first-class degree at Nottingham University, where he sat management studies with French. Professor Christine Ennew, deputy director of the university's business school, said: "We get a lot of good students but he stood out."

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Mr Tappenden's parents, Robert and Pearl, and his girlfriend, Karen Collie, yesterday. Mrs Tappenden said their son was saved by a tour guide



Traveller's lust for adventure

BY GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

VICTIM

STEVEN ROBERTS, one of the six tourists murdered in the Ugandan jungle, had left home to travel the world five months ago.

Yesterday, as his family and friends learnt of his death, they said that Mr Roberts, 27, knew the risks of visiting dangerous areas but that he also craved excitement.

Mr Roberts, from Edinburgh, flew to Uganda last month to fulfil a lifelong ambition to track down the mountain gorillas in the Impenetrable Forest. Georgia Skene, a friend, said: "I'm sure he would have understood there was a certain element of risk and that appealed to him. Steve lived life to the full."

Raymond Laidlaw, who had worked with Mr Roberts at the Miller Brothers electronics store in Edinburgh, said: "He was a young guy with itchy feet who wanted to do something with his life."

Mr Roberts's parents, who now live in Australia, were flying to Scotland yesterday to be with their daughter, Lee-Ann, who lives in Aberdeen. Lee-Ann's fiancé, Mark Williams, said: "We are all upset at everything that has happened. The family is coming together."

Before giving up his job last October Mr Roberts had lived in Edinburgh for a year. He shared a flat with a friend and had been setting up a branch of Miller Brothers, an electronics firm based in Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

John Sadd, the company's executive director, said: "The whole company is absolutely shocked. He was a character, a smashing chap. Everybody liked him." He said that in his last months with the firm it became clear he had "a bee in his bonnet" about travelling the world.

Mr Roberts grew up in Dalgety Bay, Fife, and attended Bo'ness Academy, West Lothian, where he was head boy.



Rob Hanbner and Susan Miller at their wedding in 1996

US couple were on third safari

BY HANS GREIMEL

THE JET-SET LIFE

ROB HAUBNER, 48, and Susan Miller, 42, the only Americans killed, had first travelled to Africa together on their honeymoon. The married couple had returned to the rainforest in search of adventure and gorillas, only to be brutally killed in the rebel kidnapping.

Mr Haubner and Ms Miller had worked for Intel, a computer chip giant, since the mid-1980s and were based at Hillsboro, Oregon. He was the worldwide director of customer support; she was a senior trade show manager.

Mr Haubner was considering retirement, according to Eric Pozzo, a friend and former colleague. "His thought was, 'Anything beyond the age of 36, you really need to enjoy your life'," Mr Pozzo said.

Mr Haubner and Ms Miller were on a two-week holiday, their third trip in as many years to Africa, with the goal of catching a glimpse of the mountain gorillas.

William Calder, a spokesman for Intel, said: "They loved to travel around the world. We're shocked and stunned."

Nicky Laman, who lives next door to the couple's home, described them as healthy, active and handsome people who led a jet-set life of exotic holidays and overseas business trips. "They were a remarkable couple," he said. "It's a tragedy. I can't believe it happened."

Intel said Mr Haubner and Ms Miller were travelling with another married couple who worked for Intel, Susan Studd, 46, and Bob McLaurin, 44, of Portland, Oregon. They were able to escape.

Blair dismisses IRA excuses on disarming

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made his bluntest call yet for IRA disarmament yesterday as Mo Mowlam conceded that next Wednesday's deadline for transferring power to Northern Ireland would probably not be met.

Sinn Fein responded by once again ruling out disarmament and saying that "Unionists will have collapsed the agreement" if an executive is not established by March 10.

A new poll yesterday showed a majority of Unionists were now against the Good Friday accord, and that two thirds would oppose David Trimble, the First Minister, if he established an executive that included Sinn Fein without any IRA disarmament.

With the peace process approaching its moment of greatest vulnerability, the Prime Minister backed Mr Trimble's demand for disarmament in a statement that Unionists had expected for some days. "People have got to know if they are sitting down with people who have given up violence for good," Mr Blair said. "They can't negotiate, as I think John Hume once said, with a stack of guns under the table. It's as simple as that."

Mr Blair brushed aside Sinn Fein's argument that decommissioning was impossible because it would be tantamount to an IRA surrender. "They can do it if they wish to do it," he said.

A BBC Northern Ireland poll suggested that Mr Trimble had minimal scope for compromise. Unionist support for the accord had dropped from 55 to 41 per cent after 11 months in which 243 terrorist prisoners have been freed but no weapons decommissioned.

Few believe the issue can be resolved by Wednesday and Dr Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested progress was unlikely before late this month. Attention is now shifting to Washington, where President Clinton will hold meetings with party leaders during St Patrick's Day festivities.

☐ Two loyalist splinter groups have been added to the government list of banned terrorist organisations. The Orange Volunteers and the Red Hand Defenders have been responsible for more than 20 attacks on Catholic premises recently.



THE chef Clarissa Dickson Wright travelled in style when she was installed yesterday as the first woman Rector of Aberdeen University (Gillian Harris writes). Miss Dickson Wright, half of the BBC's *Two Fat Ladies*, arrived astride a Triumph motorcycle and was carried shoulder-high by members of the rugby team to the bar.

Chef puts university food on a steep learning curve

She immediately got to grips with one of the students' biggest beefs by promising to tackle culinary standards at the 500-year-old university, and rewarded those who had voted for her with a recipe made from potato, cabbage and sausage to suit small budgets. "The food could do with a lot of work and I am sure the university and I will have some good dialogue about it," Miss Dickson Wright said. She also intends to join the fight against tuition fees. "Students should at least be entitled to enjoy the educational process. To have a millstone round your neck at such a young age seems to be totally wrong," she said.

Ms Dickson Wright's election followed the death of Allan MacCartney, the deputy leader of the Scottish National Party.

Irish warned of child 'products'

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN planned by parents who use contraception are "unhappy and resentful" and destined to be trouble makers, the Archbishop of Dublin said yesterday. Dr Desmond Connell's comments provoked immediate outrage among many people in Ireland, where family planning has been used since the 1970s.

He told students in a speech at Maynooth Roman Catholic University: "A profound alteration in the relationship between parent and child may result when the child is no longer welcomed as a gift but produced as it were to order.

"Parental attitudes would thereby be affected, creating a sense of consumer ownership as well as a new anxiety to win and retain the child's affections. The child no longer belongs to the family in a personal sense if it is radically a product, rather than a person.

"No child can be happy as a product. The child will find no meaning in a life produced by technology."

Tony O'Brien, chief executive of the Irish Family Planning Association, said it was "terribly sad that in 1999 the archbishop is perpetuating such nonsense". Noreen Byrne, chairwoman of the National Women's Council, said his comments were "unkind".

Aidan O'Keeffe of Leaven, the support group for priests who have left the Church to marry, said: "It seems that the Catholic Church is averse to what most people are doing so maybe it is time for the public to demand that the leaders advocating this kind of nonsense are not kept in office any longer."

Dr Connell, 72, an arch conservative, made his comments at a meeting of the anti-abortion Life Society. The meeting was organised to commemorate *Humanae Vitae*, the 1968 encyclical from Pope Paul VI outlining the Church's opposition to contraception.

FAMILIES AT WAR

A churchman has called for legal reform to prevent couples using children as weapons in acrimonious break-ups (writes Paul Wilkinson). Stephen Lowe, the Archdeacon of Sheffield, who this month becomes Bishop of Hulme, Manchester, said that past battlegrounds of money and property had been largely settled by legislation, leaving children as tools by which warring partners hurt each other. "One partner can seek to stop the other from seeing them after a break-up. Or the child's mind can be poisoned with hate by one partner for the other. Language used by some partners towards the other can be quite extraordinary, damaging children for the rest of their lives."

Islanders win right to fight for their home

The Ilois people will have their eviction dispute heard in court, reports Michael Horsnell

A REFUGEE evicted from his island home in the Indian Ocean by Britain 30 years ago was given permission yesterday to bring a High Court action against the Government.

Louis Bancoult is among 3,000 people seeking the right to return to the homes they lost in the Chagos archipelago when Britain allowed America to build defence installations on the Diego Garcia. In a test case, he won permission from a judge to pursue his claim that the British Government acted unlawfully.

Speaking by telephone from Port Louis in Mauritius, to where he was forced into poverty-stricken exile 1,200 miles from home in 1968, Mr Bancoult, 35, said: "We were uprooted from our motherland where we were living in peace and dumped here.

"The British Government must accept its responsibility towards its citizens and put right this terrible wrong. It is like David fighting Goliath but I believe we can win in the end. People without a country are like a tree without roots."

Mr Bancoult, an electrician who is married with three children, was four when he accompanied his parents to Mauritius for his sister Noellie to have medical treatment. The family was prevented from returning by by the British authorities, who told them that ships were no longer calling at the Chagos islands.

About 15 members of the Chagos Refugees Group, of which Mr Bancoult is chairman, celebrated their High Court success with soft drinks, and traditional songs and dances at his modest home in the poor district of Cassis. As a British Dependent Territory citizen he receives legal aid for his court battle, and he hopes to come to London, and meet the Foreign Secretary.

The Chagos islanders had arrived with few possessions in Mauritius, where unemployment was high. Britain had made no provision for them, Mr Bancoult said. "The plight of our people is bad. We do not have good access to education, most are unemployed, and there are many social problems. Justice has got to be done. We are desperate to go home." He was evicted from Peros Banhos where his paternal grandparents and great-grandparents are buried.

Sydney Kentridge, QC, his counsel, claimed that the authorities "rode roughshod" over the human rights of the islanders, known as the Ilois.

The application for leave to seek judicial review had been opposed by the Government and HM Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory. Philip Sales, for the Government, argued that the High Court in London had no jurisdiction and that the case should go to a colonial court.

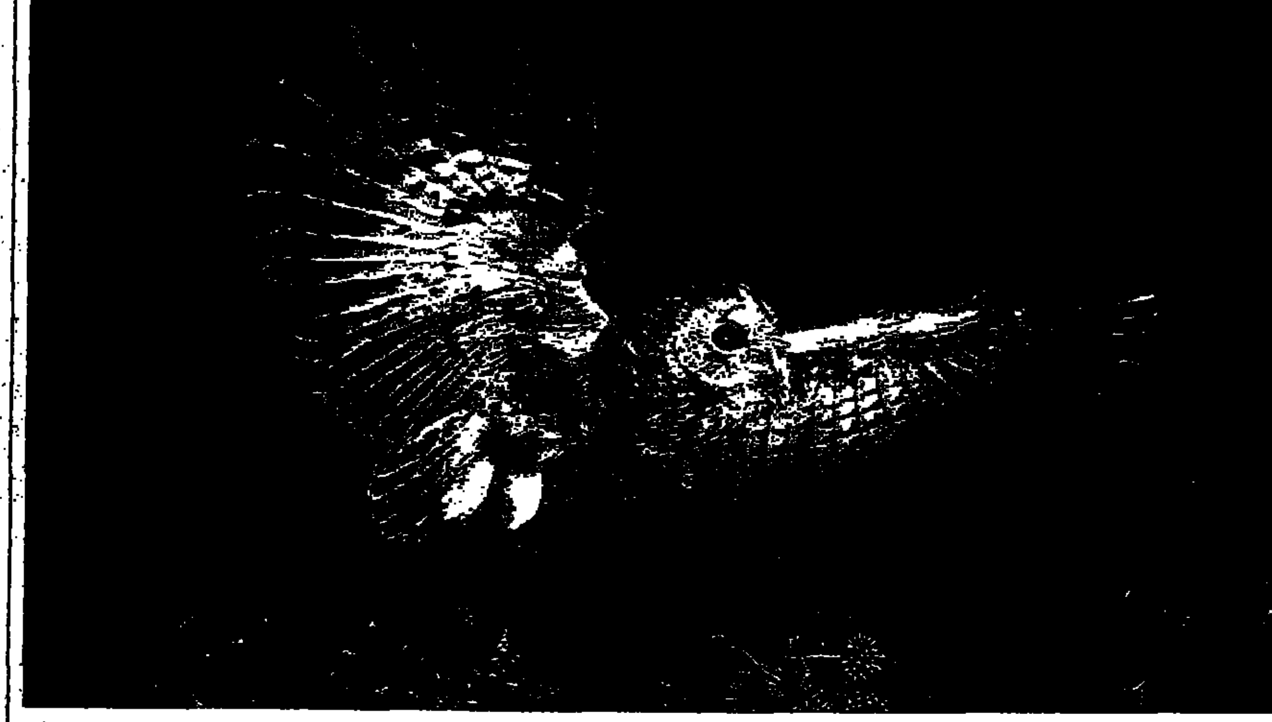
After Mr Justice Scott Baker's ruling, Mr Bancoult's solicitor, Richard Gifford, said outside court that the islanders wanted to return to their self-sufficient life of farming, fishing and labouring.

In his ruling, the judge said that when the islanders were cleared out, "no one consulted the unfortunate Ilois".

Hitherto, he said, "life went serenely on for the Ilois people until 1965 when Great Britain and the USA agreed that the islands should be used as an important strategic defence base." Between 1967 and 1973 the Ilois were required to leave their homes for Mauritius, often travelling in adverse conditions and "suffering extreme destitution and malnutrition".

They were permanently barred from their Chagos homes under a 1971 Immigration Ordinance introduced by HM Commissioner for the colony. The judge said the Ilois recognised that defence considerations limited their ability to return to Diego Garcia itself, but were seeking the right to return to outlying islands.

The Foreign Office said later that it would be defending its position "robustly" at a full court hearing later this year.



ARDEA

Owl holds clue to cutting jet noise

THE secrets of the silent swoop of the owl have been discovered by researchers who want to produce quieter aircraft (Nick Nuttall writes).

Scientists at Southampton University and Nasa's Langley Research Center in Virginia found three key features on the wings of nature's stealth bomber. Most important, down on the feathers on the upper surface kills noise above two kiloHertz. Second, most birds' wings have sharp, clean edges like those of an aircraft but the owl has a serrated edge, like a saw, on its primary feathers. This creates tiny, streamlined eddies as the wing moves. The third feature that reduces noise is the trailing edge of the wings, likened to the fringe on a scarf. Without this, the airflow would create a sound like a flute, Geoffrey Lilley, an acoustics expert and professor emeritus at Southampton University, said. "The owl is not really silent but the major noise generated is very low frequency," Professor Lilley said yesterday. "The little prey the owl feeds on has good hearing in frequencies over two kiloHertz. If the owl makes any noise above this, the prey runs away. If we understand what nature does then perhaps we can adapt this to reduce the noise of aircraft."

The findings will be presented to an American Acoustical Society meeting this month.

Mother's voice helps to fatten farm stock

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

PLAYING back the clucks of mother hens to newborn chicks could help to boost farm profits, scientists claim.

Researchers have found that recordings of the sounds made by mothers around feeding time increase the appetites of young farmyard animals.

In tests chicks played feeding calls grew up to 20 per cent faster in the first three weeks. Turkey chicks respond similarly as do piglets who hear a sow's feeding time grunts.

Sows normally suckle once an hour. The scientists managed to make the piglets demand feeding every 50 minutes, boosting their weight gain in the first few weeks of life.

The work, reported in *New Scientist*, has been done by researchers at the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada. Luis Bate, one of the researchers, said that the animals responded only to sounds made by mothers around feeding time.

Schools cut out to be at the top

By Hannah Betts

THE TIMES FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL that has amassed 35,000 tokens in the *Times* Free Books for Schools scheme welcomed a special visitor from darkest Peru yesterday.

HarperCollins, the publisher that is donating books for the scheme, was so impressed by Whitegate Primary School, Nottinghamshire, that it sent Paddington Bear to deliver its order.

Whitegate is one of the enterprising schools that have harnessed community support to collect more than 30,000 tokens as the scheme enters its third month.

Pubs and newsagents have joined Whitegate's parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts in rallying behind the school's campaign. As a result, pupils turn up with sackfuls of tokens every day.

Sandwell County Primary School in Leicestershire attributes its 30,000-plus tokens to a campaign run with military precision. Children received orders to spend half-term searching for tokens and more than 8,000 were collected in the week.

At RAF Stanmore, a nearby airbase, a stop-and-search policy is being run on Sandwell's behalf. The husband of one of the school's support staff "confiscates" tokens from all newspaper-carrying personnel as they pass through the main gates.

Of the one billion tokens available through the scheme, 11 million have been redeemed by the nation's schools so far, enough for 60,000 books. Eighty six per cent of the schools eligible for the scheme have registered to date, a total of more than 30,000.

☐ If you have a story about how your school is collecting tokens, please call 0171-895-9018 (office hours only).

☐ Today's token can be found on page 26.

Village postman is sent packing

By Simon de Bruxelles

A FUGITIVE has occupied a remote community and driven out the local man in uniform. In the wild west of Wales, it seems that the village of Wiseman's Bridge just isn't big enough for an aggressive pheasant and a frightened postman.

The pheasant escaped from a local hunt and settled on the village green last November. Local people named it Henry and say that it gets on well with everyone except the postman, Gerald Lloyd, 59. Every time he gets out of his van, the bird runs at him squawking and flapping.

Mr Lloyd is now refusing to make deliveries while the bird is free. The villagers are refusing to allow Henry to be shot or moved, so for ten days they have been making the 14-mile round trip to Tenby to collect mail.

June Gibbons, a community nurse, said: "Henry is a friendly bird and wanders around the village for people to feed him. He's been no trouble but whenever the post van goes past, Henry sits up on the hedge and flaps quite aggressively." Christine Sibery, one of the villagers who collects the mail, said: "Anyone would think it was a Rottweiler."

The Royal Mail has contacted the nearby Hean Castle Estate to demand that a gamekeeper take action. Mr Lloyd has admitted hitting the bird with a stick in self-defence, and other postmen are said to have been attacked. It is thought that the red van or the uniform may be the problem.

Val Bodden, a mail spokeswoman, said: "The pheasant has been chasing postmen and if it is shooed away it flies up and could cause damage to someone's eyes. We are not prepared to put our postmen at risk."



The way they were: Springfield receives the 1966 best girl singer award and Tom Jones best male singer. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr of The Beatles celebrated a best-group award

Tributes to 'the best songstress'

Robin Young on how music world will remember Dusty Springfield

TRIBUTES flowed in yesterday for Dusty Springfield, who was hailed as a pop icon for a generation. The singer died aged 59 on Tuesday night at her home in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, after a four-year battle with breast cancer.

Her hits on both sides of the Atlantic included *I Only Want To Be With You*, *I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself*, and *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*. Lulu, a contemporary singer and a close friend, said: "I am terribly sad at her loss, but at the same time relieved that she is no longer suffering."

Another friend and recording star of the 1960s, Cilla Black, said: "She was an incredible artist. I'm very sad and deeply shocked."

Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe of the Pet Shop Boys, whose collaboration with Miss Springfield brought her back to the hit parade in 1987, said: "It was a dream come true when Dusty Springfield agreed to sing with us on the song *What Have I Done To Deserve This?* She hadn't recorded for several years but as soon as she arrived in the studio and began to sing, we knew that the greatest female singer Britain has ever produced was still on brilliant form. We were in awe of her.

"Dusty was a tender, exhilarating and soulful singer, incredibly intelligent at phrasing a song, painstakingly building it up to a thrilling climax. She was also warm and funny. We are proud to have been a small part of her fabulous career."

The nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow, who signed Miss Springfield for his Hippodrome label in the mid-1980s, said: "In my opinion, hers was the original Girl Power. She was a very strong character throughout her career and no one pushed her around. If you were ever to give out a crown for the Queen of Pop in Great Britain, it would be to her."

Three long-serving Radio 2 presenters paid tribute to Miss Springfield as one of the best singers the country has ever produced. Ken Bruce called her "possibly the finest female soul voice to come out of Britain", adding: "She was highly appreciated in the U.S. where she was right up there with the Motown greats."

Johnnie Walker said: "She really was one of the great British singers. She could do anything from a beautiful ballad to making a really good soul record like *Dusty in Memphis*. It is very sad that we have lost her. She will be greatly missed." Brian Matthew added: "She was always as demanding of herself as of those around her that she worked with."

Mike Gill, who worked with the singer for nearly 32 years, first as her press agent and then looking after her back catalogue, said: "She was very warm and great fun to be with. Hers was the greatest voice ever produced by a female in this country. She championed a new type of music in the early Sixties when she brought Tamla Motown to Britain, which is something that has always been overlooked."

Mike Hurst, the third member of the folk group The Springfields until Dusty and her brother Tom decided to go solo, said: "I have her to thank for all my life in pop. To me she was the best female singer this country every produced."

Obituary, page 25

Emotional diva who put the soul into pop

By David Sinclair, pop critic

IN THE 1960s, before irony and cool detachment became essential accoutrements for any budding star, Dusty Springfield was a pop diva in the traditional sense — vibrant, emotional and, with her trademark blond bouffant hair and black eye shadow, glamorous.

Although best known as the queen of the dramatic ballad, Springfield was really the first British soul singer. Whether gracefully negotiating the high, lilting folk refrain of the Springfield's 1962 hit *Island of Dreams* or belting out the Motown-influenced tune of her first solo hit, *I Only Want To Be With You*, she brought authority and a surprising depth of feeling to lyrics notable for their simplicity of expression. Indeed, the words of her biggest hit, *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*, were penned by her manager in ten minutes on the back of an envelope.

Once established, she released a string of hits that became part of the fabric of British pop: *I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself*, *In the Middle of Nowhere*, *Going Back* and *I Close My Eyes and Count To Ten*, among many others.

However, it was not until 1969 that she recorded with American soul musicians, an experience that resulted in her finest album, *Dusty in Memphis*, from which her last and best major hit, *Son of a Preacher Man*, was taken.

Her influence, both as a singer and as a discreet gay icon, was manifest in the work of later performers, including Pet Shop Boys, with whom Springfield collaborated on the 1987 hit *What Have I Done To Deserve This*, and Annie Lennox, who enjoyed her first taste of pop stardom in 1979 as a member of The Tourists singing a version of *I Only Want To Be With You*.

As much a part of 1960s Britain as the miniskirt and Mary Quant, Springfield made an indelible mark on a pop industry still finding its feet, and leaves behind a legacy of hits that is outstanding by any standards.

Sailor got drunk flying club class

By Michael Evans, defence editor

A SAILOR who has been dismissed for being drunk and abusive on a commercial flight home from Iceland was travelling business class, courtesy of the Royal Navy.

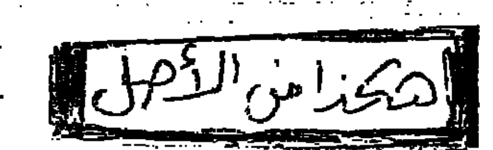
Lewis Lingard-Lane, a 25-year-old operator maintainer from *HMS Gloucester*, a Type 42 destroyer, took advantage of a perk available to all ranks who need to fly commercial when on duty: they can book club class if the flight lasts longer than two and a half hours.

Lingard-Lane, who pleaded guilty at a court martial in Portsmouth to two charges of being drunk and being insubordinate to a senior officer, helped himself to two Irish cream whiskies, two whisky mixers and a vodka and orange while sitting in a business class VIP lounge at Reykjavik airport. Later, from his club class seat on the Icelandair plane, he argued with a stewardess and repeatedly swore at a senior officer.

Yesterday a Royal Navy spokesman explained that the rule allowing all ranks to travel business class had been introduced to ensure that personnel could "continue to work during the flight and be effective on arrival". Whenever possible, the spokesman said, personnel returning home from a tour of duty would use RAF trooper aircraft. But if one was not available, all personnel "irrespective of rank" were allowed to travel business class, provided it was a journey of more than two and a half hours. The same rule applied to the Army and the RAF.

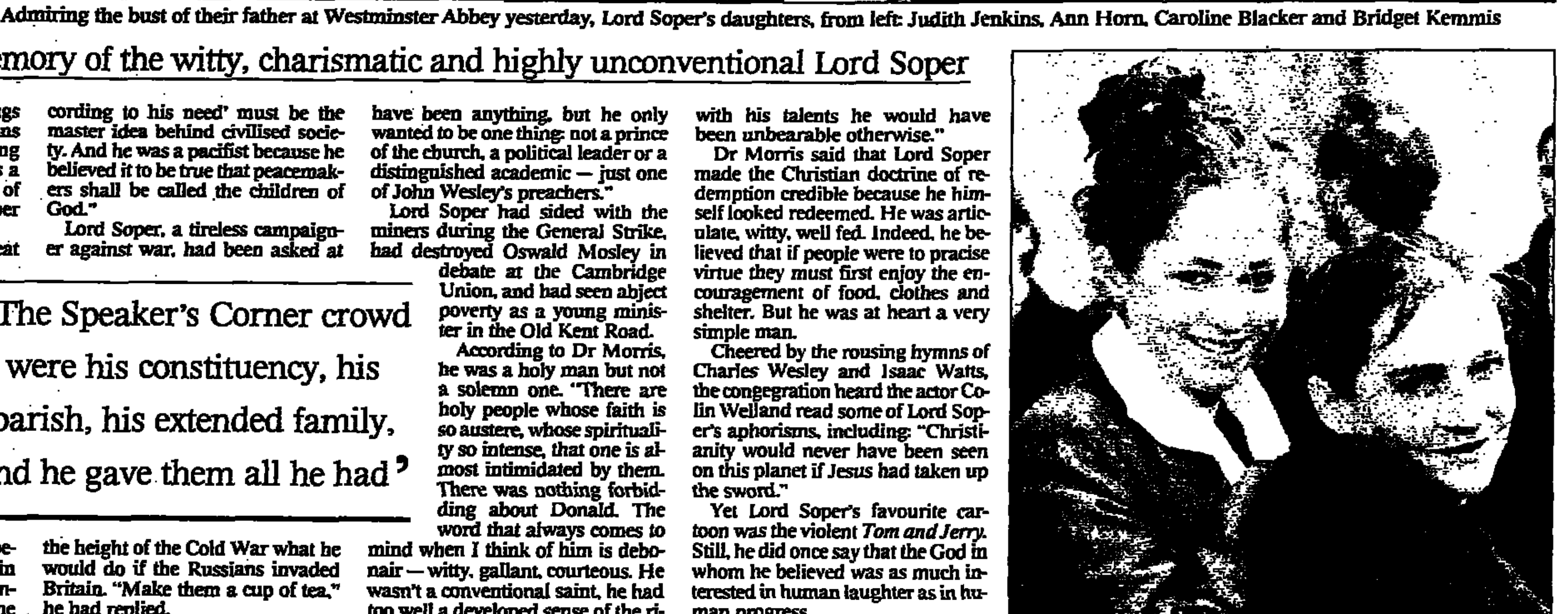
Lingard-Lane, of Stourbridge, West Midlands, had completed his tour of duty on *HMS Gloucester* and was booked business class on a civilian airliner because there was no RAF transport available. The cheapest flight on Icelandair from Reykjavik to Heathrow is currently £198 for a return economy fare. This compares with a return business class fare of £657. A one-way fare would be £498, whether business or economy.

The Navy spokesman said that the Ministry of Defence had arranged special concessionary rates with airlines. "So it's wrong to compare normal club class rates with economy fares."






In praise of the soapbox socialist



Admiring the bust of their father at Westminster Abbey yesterday, Lord Soper's daughters, from left: Judith Jenkins, Ann Horn, Caroline Blacker and Bridget Kemmis

Alan Hamilton hears tributes paid in memory of the witty, charismatic and highly unconventional Lord Soper

LORD SOPER, the Methodist minister and soapbox evangelist, believed that socialism was the Kingdom of God, so far as politics and economics would allow, his memorial service at Westminster Abbey was told yesterday.

His socialism was the practical expression of the Christian faith, and he maintained to the end that the Labour Party should be fundamentally socialist. For him, capitalism was the creed of the individual, the Rev Peter Stephens, President of the Methodist Conference, told a packed abbey.

But Lord Soper, who died in December aged 95, was decidedly Old Labour, if the figures from a past socialist age peppering the congregation were anything to go by. Many are now ennobled, but they used to be known as Mary Wilson, Barbara Castle, Jim Callaghan, Shirley Williams and Len Murray, onetime general secretary of the TUC.

Most prominent, and still determinedly unennobled, was Tony Benn, who added to the readings from St Matthew and Philippians one from *Tribune*, the left-wing weekly to which Lord Soper was a regular contributor. In a world of whirling weathercocks, Lord Soper was a signpost, Mr Benn said.

A familiar figure, even at a great age, in long black cassock bound with a leather belt, Lord Soper was most at home on his soapbox in front of a crowd at Speaker's Corner or Tower Hill, the Rev Dr Colin Morris, a former head of BBC religious affairs, said in a sermon. "They were his constituency, his parish, his extended family, and he gave them everything he had."

Dr Morris said: "Donald was a Christian because he believed it to be true that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. He was a socialist because he believed it to be true that 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his need' must be the master idea behind civilised society. And he was a pacifist because he believed it to be true that peacemakers shall be called the children of God."

Lord Soper, a tireless campaigner against war, had been asked at the height of the Cold War what he would do if the Russians invaded Britain. "Make them a cup of tea," he had replied.

> 'The Speaker's Corner crowd were his constituency, his parish, his extended family, and he gave them all he had'

He was a man of immense ability, charisma and style. "He could have been anything, but he only wanted to be one thing: not a prince of the church, a political leader or a distinguished academic — just one of John Wesley's preachers."

Lord Soper had sided with the miners during the General Strike, had destroyed Oswald Mosley in debate at the Cambridge Union, and had seen abject poverty as a young minister in the Old Kent Road.

According to Dr Morris, he was a holy man but not a solemn one. "There are holy people whose faith is so austere, whose spirituality so intense, that one is almost intimidated by them. There was nothing forbidding about Donald. The word that always comes to mind when I think of him is debonair — witty, gallant, courteous. He wasn't a conventional saint, he had too well a developed sense of the ridiculous for that. And he had his faults, for which thank God, for with his talents he would have been unbearable otherwise."

Dr Morris said that Lord Soper made the Christian doctrine of redemption credible because he himself looked redeemed. He was articulate, witty, well fed. Indeed, he believed that if people were to pracise virtue they must first enjoy the encouragement of food, clothes and shelter. But he was at heart a very simple man.

Cheered by the rousing hymns of Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts, the congegration heard the actor Colin Welland read some of Lord Soper's aphorisms, including: "Christianity would never have been seen on this planet if Jesus had taken up the sword."

Yet Lord Soper's favourite cartoon was the violent *Tom and Jerry*. Still, he did once say that the God in whom he believed was as much interested in human laughter as in human progress.

Memorial service, page 24

Granddaughters Alice Blacker, left, and Catherine Jenkins

Drug-taking is 'impossible to stop at raves'

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

DRUG-TAKING at organised rave parties cannot be prevented no matter how rigorous the security, and casualties from overdose are therefore inevitable, according to a report of what happened at one event.

In the first recorded study of rave casualties, the journal *Pre-hospital Immediate Care* describes what happened at a party attended by 8,500 people at Wembley Arena on New Year's Eve, 1997.

About 200 staff were on hand to control the crowds, all of whom were checked to make sure that they had tickets and were 18 or older. Anyone appearing to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs was refused entry.

Once through the door the ticket holders were directed to one of 50 search lines, where they were required to empty their pockets and remove their shoes and socks before being subjected to a full body search. Coats and bags were also searched. The performers were also searched and their bags and equipment thoroughly checked on entry.

The security guards confiscated and destroyed 33 types of drug, including aspirin, Ecstasy and amphetamines. Anyone who claimed they needed drugs for a medical condition was sent to see the doctor on site for the story to be verified.

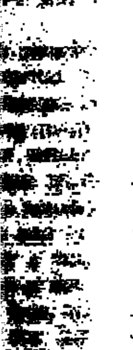
The security guards also confiscated chewing gum, used to combat teeth grinding, which is a common side-effect of taking Ecstasy. The cumulative effects of thousands spitting out gum would also have caused major cleaning problems.

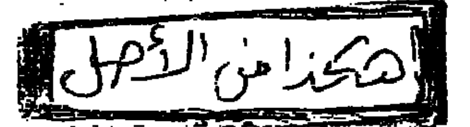
Vicks Vapo-rub was also prohibited as some ravers rub it on their chests and faces then do up their tops or hoods to cover their faces. This is thought to produce a "high" and can relieve some of the effects of "coming-down" after taking Ecstasy. Nasal inhalers were not allowed because they can be used to hold and deliver drugs.

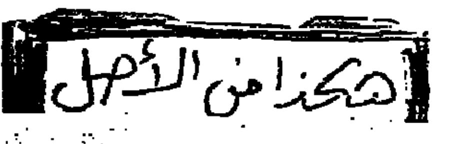
Despite all these precautions, the doctor, four nurses and 19 first-aiders on duty dealt with 79 "casualties" — including 20 staff who developed severe headaches. Of the remainder, drugs were a contributing factor in 34 cases.

The commonest misused drugs were amphetamines followed by Ecstasy and cocaine. There was only a small amount of heroin and even less cannabis. Pro-plus, a concentrated caffeine, was also being taken in combination.

The use of drugs was probably much more widespread, since the medical team dealt only with those who collapsed. "Either drugs were being taken before entry or they were undetected by the search procedure," the report says.




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British troops faced Kosovo clash

Force was ready to rescue monitors from the Serbs, writes **Michael Evans** in Petrovec, Macedonia

BRITISH troops were within minutes of moving into Kosovo as a fighting unit, backed by combat aircraft and helicopters, after 21 international monitors were detained by Serb forces, it emerged yesterday.

Nearly 300 soldiers from the 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Border Regiment, part of the Nato "extraction force" based in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, were ordered to launch what would have been the first mission inside Kosovo since the 2,300-man, French-led rescue unit became fully operational on January 15.

The 21 monitors, including several Britons, from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) verification mission, were detained by the Serbs at the end of last week as they tried to enter the Yugoslav province from Macedonia.

After a 24-hour stand-off during which the monitors locked themselves in their Land Rovers, with armed soldiers surrounding them, the Serbs agreed to release them. But the Serb decision to let the monitors into Kosovo came only after Nato warned Belgrade that a heavily armed extraction force was on standby to move into the province.



Yesterday, at Petrovec, a Macedonian airbase six miles from the Kosovo border used by the extraction force, British officers disclosed that a full-scale rescue operation had been put into action, authorised by General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

A heavily armed force, consisting of 280 soldiers from the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 21 Warrior armoured combat vehicles, and a similar-sized Italian infantry company backed by six Mangusta attack helicopters, was waiting for the signal to go.

A spokesman for the British regiment said: "We were on the point of leaving for the border, with literally minutes to go, when word came back that the monitors had been released." Nato had assigned fighter aircraft from bases in Italy to provide air support.

Officers from the King's Own Royal Border Regiment said the plan had been to seize the high ground round the border town of Deneral Jankovic, where the monitors were being held, and make it clear to the Serbs that action would be taken unless the 21 people were released. "There was no question of us going in with all guns blazing, but we would have gone as a deterrent force to help bring the situation under control," one officer said.


British soldiers — members of Nato's "extraction force" — at their base in Krivolak in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Tuesday

However, they were fully prepared for action. By the time the force was ready to move, it was equipped with Milan anti-tank weapons, mortars and ammunition. The Warriors also had fully loaded 30mm cannon. The British troops ready for Kosovo action came from the Burma Company Group of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. They were first alerted at 3pm last Friday. The operation was called off at 7.45pm.

The confrontation with the Serb border troops and military police began when they insisted on searching the OSCE vehicles. The Serbs were told they had no right to obstruct the monitoring team because it was protected by diplomatic immunity. Even after the monitors locked themselves into their Land Rovers, the Serbs tried to force the doors open with crowbars. "It was not a hostage situation, but they were not allowed to go anywhere," a British officer said.

Britain has 600 soldiers with the extraction force, including a large engineering and logistics element, which is part of the growing British commitment to Kosovo.

Santer poised to turn his back on Cresson

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, President of the European Commission, yesterday set the scene for an attempt to oust Edith Cresson, the sleaze-embroiled French Commissioner, and other members of his team if their conduct is faulted by a high-level inquiry.

For the first time, Mr Santer dropped his public support for commissioners who are in the sights of outside investigators, due to report on March 15. Mme Cresson, a former French Socialist Prime Minister, has borne the brunt of charges by the European Parliament that she engaged in cronyism and other shady practices.

Launching a new code of conduct to enforce the integrity of the beleaguered Brussels executive, Mr Santer said the "right conclusions" must be drawn if the independent inquiry finds wrongdoing. "If any commissioners are put into question, they must conduct themselves as political figures and draw their conclusions."

This implied demand for resignation broke with Mr Santer's previous insistence on the "collegiality" of the Commission, the principle under which all 20 members are supposed to share equal responsibility.

In a sign of the bad blood among the top Eurocrats, Mme Cresson struck back last night, saying she had no intention of resigning and found it incredible that the President could be about to jettison her. The outspoken Commissioner, who is in charge of education and science, views herself as a scapegoat and a victim of German-inspired political machinations.

Given Mme Cresson's defiance, the scene is being set for a messy political battle involving the French Government in the event of a negative report by the inquiry.


Cresson: heading for a messy confrontation

Cook's think tank will reassess 'ethical' foreign policy

The strategy is not to leave diplomacy to diplomats alone, writes **Michael Binyon**

A new government-sponsored think tank launched yesterday is to take a hard look at Robin Cook's vaunted "ethical foreign policy" to see whether it is working.

The Foreign Policy Centre, set up by Tony Blair and Mr Cook to bring new thinking to British diplomacy, has identified this area of Labour policy as one that most urgently needs re-examination. The policy has been criticised as ineffectual and self-defeating, and has been blamed by critics for the muddle in the arms to Sierra Leone affair.

The independently funded centre will initially be run on a shoestring, with a director and ten researchers. Mark Leonard, best known for his proposals to rebrand Britain— dubbed "cool Britannia" — and for the Demos pamphlet on the monarchy, was appointed director in December with a remit to broaden public debate on foreign policy, rethink its goals, underline its links to issues such as crime, drugs and jobs, and bring a wider group of people into decision-making. Ethical foreign policy was chosen as one of the first research projects.

Mr Leonard said it was looked at simply in terms of arms exports and military help for repressive regimes. "It should not be a bolt-on issue. This should run through every aspect of foreign policy."

He said decisions were too often taken simply on the basis of whether they were in the national interest. There was none of the debate or constraints that surrounded domestic policy.

He identified four tests by which foreign policy should be measured: did it have public support; was it in line with the Government's aims; was it effective; and did it meet Labour's ideological goal and chime in with the Government's values.

Other issues where the centre wants new thinking independent of the diplomatic service or the Royal Institute for International Affairs are the future of the Commonwealth, Internet regulation, teaching foreign policy in schools, new missions for Europe, democratising diplomacy, global corporate citizenship and a re-examination of such concepts as sovereignty, power, Britishness, the national interests and a "just" war.

The new centre is likely to run into opposition from diplomats, who might see its goals as naive and its methods as amateur. It will make wide use of focus groups, opinion polls and field work, and wants to talk to polluters and eco-warriors, regimes and rebels, diaspora communities and the countries from which they come. It says there is little domestic check on bad foreign policy because the public is not involved in the debate. But the Government gets blamed when things go wrong, and scandals such as the Pergau dam and the arms-to-Iraq affair can become a political minefield.

"Foreign policy affects everything in our lives," Mr Leonard said. "It is too important to be left to diplomats alone — every person, company and charity has a duty to get involved. We need totally to rethink what foreign policy is and how we make it."

Jackal denies links to Castro

Paris: Carlos the Jackal has written to the French press from his prison cell at La Santé to deny that his terrorist activities had been financed by the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro (Adam Sage writes).

His letter comes after reports that Cuba had given him passports, money and arms at a time when he was the world's most feared terrorist.

Last week a former Cuban Interior Ministry official told the French secret service that Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, had received logistical support from President Castro. Juan Antonio Rodriguez, who has defected to the US, said that Carlos had been given help in fleeing French justice after staging an assassination in Paris in 1975.

Señor Rodriguez was questioned after the French authorities were asked to investigate Señor Castro for "international drug trafficking, kidnapping, torture and murder".

Holocaust museums oppose memorial

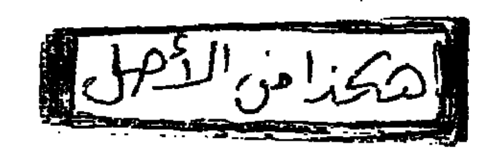
FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

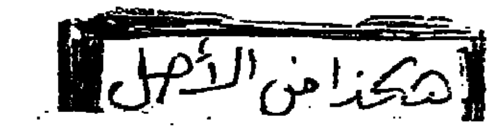
THE directors of seven concentration camp museums rebelled yesterday against the German Government's plan to construct a Holocaust Memorial in the centre of Berlin.

Their opposition was timed to coincide with the beginning of a parliamentary inquiry into how a memorial to murdered European Jews should be designed. In an open letter, they said: "Parliament is facing a fundamental decision — it is about how the Holocaust should be anchored in the cultural memory of Germany."

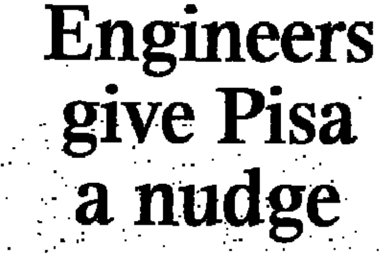
Peter Eisenman, an American architect, seemed to have the edge over other entries with a plan for some 4,000 large stones laid out like a topsy-turvy graveyard. The Social Democrat Government, however, has doubts, above all about the scale of the memorial, and Michael Naumann, the Culture Minister, initiated a compromise plan: around 2,500 stones should form the artistic core and flanking one side of it should be a Holocaust museum. The museum, he said, would house a million books about German crimes in the war as well as interactive tools for schoolchildren.

But the directors of Belsen, Buchenwald, Dachau, Dora, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen called on MPs to ditch the plan, saying resources should be spent on the original camps so that visitors could see the real site of the horror rather than an artistic representation.









Engineers give Pisa a nudge

Rome: The Leaning Tower of Pisa, subsiding for centuries, has moved fractionally back towards the upright (Richard Owen writes).

"The tower has shifted back towards the vertical by 1.5mm [0.06in] in under a month," said Carlo Viggiani, one of the engineers involved. "When you consider that it has been leaning southwards out of true at the rate of one millimetre a year, this is a major victory."

Il Messaggero, the Rome daily, declared: "A miracle on the Field of Miracles", referring to the medieval name for the meadow of unstable, saturated sandy soil on which the tower stands.

In the face of protests from experts who think the "save the tower" plan will worsen the tilt, engineers have been removing soil on the side opposite the "lean" after attaching steel cables to the tower to stabilise it. "It worked," said a jubilant Signor Viggiani.

LINKS

www.endex.com/gf/buildings/tlpisa/tlpinfo.htm — Details of the construction of the tower.
www.columbia.edu/~jhb3/project/pisa/pisa.html — Comment by ArtWatch International.

Work begins on the latest attempt to straighten the Leaning Tower of Pisa

Referees 'bribed with Rolexes and callgirls'

Adam Sage in Paris reports on a trial involving a top French soccer club

FOOTBALL referees overseeing big European matches expect to be supplied with £2,000-a-night callgirls, Rolex watches and fur coats for their wives, a French court heard yesterday. Top clubs are happy to comply with the demands in the hope of winning penalties and other decisions in their favour, the court in Bordeaux was told.

The allegations came at the end of a corruption trial involving directors of the leading French club Les Girondins de Bordeaux, which was said to have built up a Fr50 million (£4.9 million)) slush fund to buy games. Manchester United were the victims of one of a series of transactions used by Bordeaux to feed its fund, it was alleged.

The French club's former managing director, Didier Couécou, its general secretary, Hervé Bizot, and a Croatian agent, Ljubomir Barin, face prison sentences of up to two years if found guilty of fraud.

Mr Barin said Bordeaux's chairman, Claude Bez, who died last year, decided in the 1980s that his club "needed to do what all the others do" and create a slush fund to curry favour with referees and linesmen.

"Afterwards, the referees started falling over themselves to come to Bordeaux," said Mr Barin, who was described by the prosecution as a "dangerous intermediary".

The defendant said matchday officials refereeing Bordeaux's biggest European games against the likes of Juventus and Dynamo Kiev were offered meals in the best French restaurants and rooms in the most luxurious hotels.

Acting on behalf of M Bez, he paid for Paris prostitutes who charged £2,000 a night. "We needed one for each of the four officials. When the refs were greedy, the girls stayed for two nights."

Perhaps suffering from guilt, the officials would then ask Mr Barin to find presents for their wives. "They left with big suitcases full of small watches, perfumes and fur coats." Mr Barin said Real Madrid, which won the European Champions' League last year, always offered linesmen Rolex watches, which cost between £1,500 and £4,000. "Real win all their matches 4-0," he said.

The court was shown a document dated on the day of an important encounter between Bordeaux and Naples, refereed by German officials. The document said: "50,000DM + 25,000DM + 25,000DM. Total 100,000DM = Fr342,000." M Bizot withdrew the sum in cash from the club's bank account that evening, the court heard.

Questioned as witnesses on Tuesday, Joel Quiniou and Michel Vautrot, both experienced French referees, said they received "little symbolic presents" from clubs. "But in 15 years I have never known a delicate situation," said M Quiniou. M Bizot and M Couécou said they never tried to find out the destination of the money they handled.

"You don't know anything and you don't ask any questions. That is your philosphy," said the prosecutor, Gilles Accomando. "That is right," replied M Couécou.

The court heard of the 1988 transfer of the Danish player Jesper Olsen from Manchester United to Bordeaux. An English version of the contract mentioned a transfer fee of £850,000. But a version in French, never shown to Manchester United, said the fee was Fr375,000. The difference was split between the player, his agent and Bordeaux's slush fund, the court heard.

"Weren't you worried about signing two versions of the same contract?", the prosecutor asked M Couécou. "I signed a lot of things," he replied. The court will give its judgment later this month.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Sharon joins call to quit Lebanon

Jerusalem: In a controversial proposal, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, yesterday urged Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to postpone the May 17 general election and instead form an emergency government to pull troops out of Lebanon (Christopher Walker writes). It was immediately rejected, but the call by Mr Sharon, architect of the costly 1982 invasion of Lebanon, was not lost on many Israelis convinced that the occupation must end. The Labour Party declared that Mr Sharon had no confidence in Mr Netanyahu's ability to solve the issue, but it too rejected delaying the poll.

Cook nuclear pledge

Moscow: Robin Cook visited a nuclear reprocessing plant in Murmansk where Russia's fleet of disintegrating nuclear submarines is based (Anna Blundy writes). The Foreign Secretary is on a three-day visit to Russia during which he will meet Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, in Sochi on the Black Sea. He expressed Britain's willingness to help Russia dispose of its nuclear waste and pledged £3 million in aid.

'Shoot on sight' order

Jakarta: Indonesia sent 3,000 troops to restore order on Ambon island, where more than 200 people have died in fighting between Muslims and Christians, and sacked the local police chief. General Wiranto, the armed forces' chief, ordered troops to shoot rioters on sight. In Jakarta, Muslim students called for a holy war against Christians on Ambon. *(Reuters)*

Taleban wall of death

Kabul: Two men convicted of sodomy by a Taleban court in Afghanistan were publicly crushed to death when a tank pushed a mud wall on them in Kandahar. In Kabul, Taleban soldiers slashed men's leather jackets, which are prohibited, as are some music, video recorders, televisions, cameras, brown paper bags and women's white socks. *(AP/AFP)*

Skiers cancel holidays

Innsbruck: Austrian ski resorts are recording cancellations of up to 80 per cent after the avalanches that killed 38 people last week, officials said. Good snow conditions had brought a relatively good season to Austrian ski resorts before the disaster. A traditional festival organised in the Paznaun valley at the end of the skiing season has been cancelled. *(AFP)*

Gibraltar fury over gangster accusation

From Giles Tremlett in Madrid

OFFICIALS in Gibraltar yesterday denied claims that criminal gangs on the Rock have been prepared to turn their hands to murder and kidnapping as well as drug-running and money-laundering.

The allegations were made in a document handed to Tony Blair by José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, during a meeting in Germany last week. The document, leaked to *El Mundo* yesterday, provoked a vigorous denial from Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

He said that the allegations were part of a Spanish campaign to dirty the Rock's name: "Many things have happened to me, but nobody has ever accused me of complicity or tolerance of kidnapping and murder."

Spanish diplomats confirmed that the note was the first part of what Spain claimed was a detailed investigation proving Gibraltar's role in organised crime. They said a second part of the report was being prepared and would be sent to London.

The note handed to Mr Blair said Gibraltar's smugglers had turned from tobacco and small quantities of hashish to large drug shipments.

□ **La Linea:** About 5,000 Spaniards from La Linea on the border with Gibraltar demonstrated yesterday for the lifting of restrictions that have affected 3,000 of them who work on the Rock (Dominique Searle writes).

Millions see last act of the Monica soap

We were sex soulmates, Lewinsky boasts. **Ian Brodie** in Washington and **Carol Midgley** report

AFTER days of leaks about President Clinton's sex drive, the despondency that nearly drove Monica Lewinsky to jump to her death and her hatred for Linda Tripp, Americans finally settled down to watch the Full Monica last night.

There was a sense that their national soap opera might be nearly over or at least, as the *fashionable phrase has it*, reaching closure, as Ms Lewinsky told all to Barbara Walters, the *grande dame* of American television agony aunts.

ABC *television complained* that one set of leaks in the *New York Daily News* came from a tape that was "illegally obtained", but the network did *not seem too* worried about losing viewers because it promptly released excerpts of its own.

ABC also raised the price fivefold for its 30-second television advertisements, to $800,000 (£500,000), and was hoping to attract *an audience* approaching the 62 million who tuned in for Oprah Winfrey's chat with Michael Jackson six years ago.

This was the first time that Ms Lewinsky, 25, had talked outside the boundaries of the *legal system about* the sex-and-lies scandal that led to Mr Clinton's impeachment trial over their 11 trysts in the corridor and private study leading *from* the Oval Office, plus their intimate telephone chats over 18 months.

By Ms Lewinsky's account, there was a very intense sexual attraction between them from the beginning when she flashed her thong underwear to catch *his* attention, an *act* she described as a "small, *subtle, flirtatious gesture*". The chemistry began with their first kiss: "We instantly felt very familiar and very comfortable with each other and it was amazing. He's a good kisser."

She described Mr Clinton as a "very sensual man" who, with his religious upbringing, struggled with his sensuality because he did not think it was right.

"I think he tries to hold himself back and then he can't any more because it's an energy you can't ignore," she said. The two of them were, as she put it, "*sexual soulmates*".

When Ms Walters asked if Mr Clinton did things to make her "happy and content", Ms Lewinsky answered curtly: "Yes."

Ms Walters asked about the time the President was on the *telephone* discussing *Bosnia* while receiving oral sex. Ms Lewinsky admitted: "The truth is, there's an element of excitement and a little bit of danger involved."

When Ms Lewinsky accused *Mr Clinton* of *treating her* like a sex object, he broke down in tears: "He told me he never wanted me to feel bad and that's not what this relationship was about."

She told him she loved him and he said: "That means a lot to me" — but never said he loved her, even though there were times she thought he felt the same way by how he held and touched her.

Then there was the book of love poems by Walt Whitman that he gave her. She looked taken aback when Ms Walters told her that Mr Clinton gave *the same book to his wife Hillary* soon after they met.

Ms Lewinsky thought often of the First Lady, but never imagined the affair would be exposed. *In apologising to* Mrs Clinton and her daughter Chelsea she said: "I wouldn't dream of asking them to forgive me."

Ms Lewinsky, her raven hair pushed back, came across *as bright and animated, her* eyes sparkling. She was much more at ease than in her tense videotaped evidence for the Senate impeachment trial.

She admitted that the affair had been a painful time, but insisted: "*This was about a man* and a woman — not a President and an intern. We would talk, we would laugh, we would tell jokes." She added: "He was very tender with me, very affectionate."

Breaking up was hard. Mr Clinton tried several times to end the affair, causing the anguish that led Ms Lewinsky to confide in Ms Tripp when they worked together at the Pentagon, both refugees from the White House. Their friendship is now in shreds. "I pity her and would hate to be her," Ms Lewinsky said.

Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, barred Ms Lewinsky under the terms of her immunity agreement from discussing the treatment she received from his office.

But his ban, widely criticised, does not extend to Andrew Morton's book *Monica's Story* nor, *apparently, to* Jon Snow's interview tonight on Channel 4.

The book discloses that she was so despondent over her *treatment by Mr Starr's prosecutors* when they first accosted her in a suburban Washington hotel that she briefly considered jumping from the *tenth-floor window in their* presence.

In the book Ms Lewinsky says that one of the prosecutors told her she faced 27 years *in prison for perjury if she* refused to co-operate with their criminal investigation of Mr Clinton. She says: "I couldn't bear to go to jail. I *would come out an old lady* and no one would ever want to marry me."

Mr Starr denies that his staff tried improperly to coerce *Ms Lewinsky, but the Justice* Department is looking into the episode.

A new book alleges that Mr Clinton's telephone sex with Ms Lewinsky was tape-recorded by Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, and was then used by Israel to blackmail the President into calling off an FBI hunt for an Israeli *mole* allegedly installed in the White House.

The allegation appears in *Gideon's Spies*, a history of *Mossad* by Gordon Thomas, a British author, according to the *New York Post*.

In the interview with Jon Snow, which has been sold to more than 30 countries, she explains how she became attracted to the President.

"The situation was such that we found ourselves alone in a *room together and we were* small-talking," she says. "And I was very nervous and I remember thinking to myself, 'Well, this is your chance, so *you better tell him that you're* interested, otherwise he's not going to know what to do'.

"So I told him that I had a crush on him and we went into *his back office and had our* first private conversation and it was the first time he kissed me."

She adds: "This has been a *humiliating, violating, frightening* experience. Not only for me, but for all those close to me as well. For my parents, for my friends. I had *documents that had been deleted* on my computer that were meant for no one else's eyes to not only be retrieved but printed for the world to read.

"*My innermost thoughts* — intimate, private moments between two people — being discussed not only by myself but by others all over the world, *day after day. It's disgusting.*"

The Starr report quoted Ms Lewinsky as saying that Mr Clinton did tell her that he suspected a foreign embassy was tapping *his telephone. He said* that if anyone asked her about their calls she was to say they were friends, they knew they were being monitored and the telephone sex talk was just to fool the monitors.

Asked for comment yesterday, a White House spokesman, P.J. Crowley, replied: "The only thing I can possibly say is we'll skip the book and wait for the movie."

VIRGINIA SHERWOOD / ABC NEWS

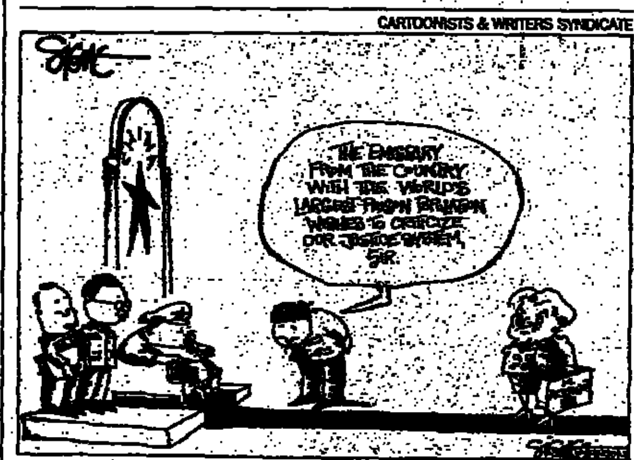
Barbara Walters, left, with Monica Lewinsky who spoke candidly of her relationship with President Clinton

LINKS

Monica - The Interview:
The Jon Snow interview on Channel 4, 9.30pm today.

LONDON VISIT

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE



An American cartoonist comments on this week's visit to China by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State

US women serve 'double sentence'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PARIS

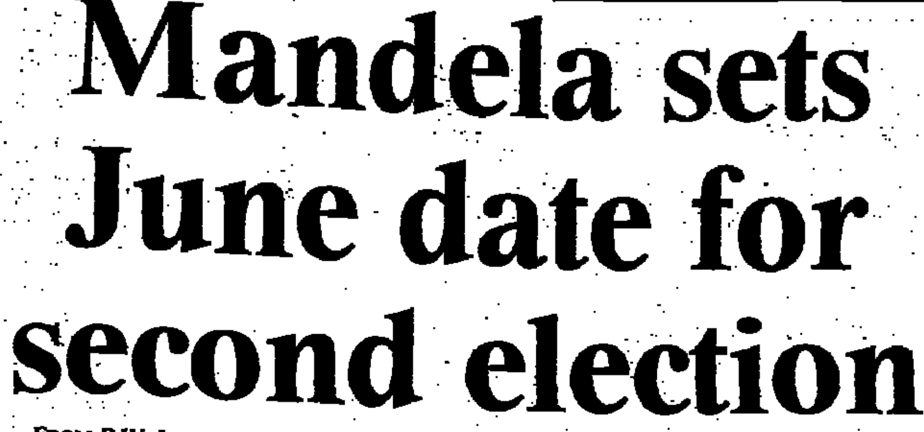
AMNESTY International today denounces the violation of the *fundamental rights* and dignity of women in American prisons. Cases of rape, groping and fondling during body searches, and the use of handcuffs and *shackles* in childbirth, led Michel Forst, Amnesty's director in France, to refer to a "double sentence".

Accounts compiled by Amnesty echo a *1997 Justice* Department investigation that admitted "frequent, prolonged, close-up and prurient viewing during dressing, showering and use of toilet facilities" in an Arizona prison. According to today's *report*, 41 per cent of employees coming into contact with women inmates are male — which runs counter to United Nations regulations.

Last March, it adds, the Federal Bureau of Prisons "paid $500,000 (£312,500) to three women to drop charges against correctional personnel in California". The charges included *rape*. Citing UN reports and the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia, Amnesty says: "Under international law, rape of a prisoner by correctional *staff* is considered to be an act of torture."

In 1997 about 138,000 women were in prison. The proportion of blacks and Hispanics greatly exceeded their representation in the population.





Mandela sets June date for second election

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday announced that South Africa's second democratic election will be held on June 2, not only opening the way to something that many South Africans find hard to contemplate — a post-Mandela future — but also boldly prejudging the result of two court cases brought by the Opposition.

The New National Party and the Democratic Party are incensed by the way the African National Congress overruled the Independent Electoral Commission by ramming through a law which restricts the franchise to those holding bar-coded identity documents. Several independent surveys have shown that between four million and five million people — most of them white and Coloured opposition voters — will thus be disenfranchised, an emotive issue not only because South African politics revolved so long over the opening up of the vote to all, but also because the result could well be to hand the ANC the two-thirds majority it seeks, virtually by default.

The NNP's case is on appeal and the DP's case has yet to be heard. The effect of President Mandela's announcement is thus to place the judiciary in a difficult position: with the election going ahead full steam it is difficult to see how any judge will be bold enough, whatever the merits of the case, to uphold the Opposition's plea — for to do so would be to rule the election unconstitutional in mid-campaign.



Mandela announces his poll decision yesterday

The opposition parties point to the fact that the right to universal suffrage was regarded as so sacred by the ANC that during the constitutional negotiations it insisted that an extraordinary 75 per cent majority would be necessary to amend or remove this right from the Constitution.

Certainly, the election campaign begins with the Opposition looking heavily disadvantaged. Apart from the loss of voters through the bar-coded issue, the low registration figures — only 14.9 million out of the country's 25.5 million potential voters have been registered — looks certain to hurt the Opposition too. For it is among the 4.5 million Coloureds and Indians, who gave over 60 per cent of their votes to the Opposition last time, that registration has particularly collapsed. Polls show strong feelings of alienation and disempowerment within both communities, where feeling runs high that affirmative action policies have left them as disadvantaged as ever: we were not white enough under apartheid, runs the refrain, and we are not black enough now. The response among Coloureds and Indians is one of hopelessness and impotence, with a corresponding reluctance to "invest in the system" by registering to vote.

The opposition parties are hoping to galvanise their supporters by brandishing the spectre of an ANC two-thirds majority which would allow the ANC to amend the Constitution at will: "Mugabe [in Zimbabwe] has two thirds" reads the NNP poster going up in and around Johannesburg.

The Opposition welcomes the early election date, fearing the ANC will spend them into the ground in a long campaign. The ANC not only receives the lion's share of the government grant to parliamentary parties but has also secured large-scale support from Libya, Morocco and elsewhere and is expected to have well over 300 million rands (£30 million) to spend, many times more than the Opposition.

Interest will also fasten on Mr Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, and on the question of whether the liberal DP can succeed in overtaking the NNP to become the official Opposition.



OWEN HUMPHREYS / PA

The Duke of York, on a five-day visit to Vietnam, meets children in an English class at Thang Long school in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. The school is run by a British-registered aid group, the Saigon Children's Charity.

Duke back at school

The school has about 200 children, many of them orphans who live with grandparents or other adults and often work to support themselves. The charity helps the neediest with some money each month for rice. The pupils attend classes that focus on English: there is much emphasis on games, songs and group activities.

"We believe that by giving these deprived children an excellent training in English, they will get decent jobs and so escape the cycle of poverty into which they were born," Paul Cleves, the charity director, said. *(AP)*

Newsmen win torture case in Zimbabwe

Judge deals a blow to Mugabe over passports seizure, reports Jan Raath

AN ATTEMPT by the Zimbabwe Government to prevent two journalists coming to Britain for treatment of the physical and psychological injury of torture inflicted on them in January has been dismissed by a judge.

Mark Chavunduka, 37, editor of the *Zimbabwe Standard*, and Ray Choto, 33, its chief reporter, are due soon to be handed their passports to allow them to undergo eight weeks of therapy at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture in Kentish Town, north London, their lawyers said yesterday.

Judge Yunus Omerjee had earlier thrown out an appeal by the Attorney-General's office against a decision by a magistrate last week that there was no doubt they had been tortured, and no reason to prevent them from leaving the country for medical treatment. He also made it clear that the Government would not be able to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Judge Omerjee's decision underlines Mr Mugabe's weakness in his confrontation with a judiciary that has refused to be intimidated by the storm of abuse from him and members of his regime against the country's judges and its independent press. "I have always feared that the Government would try to get at the judges," Mr Chavunduka said last night. "I am sure they have tried. But this has confirmed my faith in the judiciary and shown that they are not going to be trampled on."

The journalists were illegally detained by military intelligence officers who subjected them to what independent medical examinations said was "sustained, severe torture" to force them to name the sources for their report of a military coup plot. They had their passports seized as part of bail conditions after they were charged with "causing alarm and despondency".

They returned to work a few days after they were released and the newspaper has kept up its fare of reports critical of the Government. "If anything, this (the ordeal) has made me more resolved in my writing," he said. However, they have moved into secret addresses out of fear they may be arrested again.

President Mugabe has endorsed their violent interrogation. The Attorney-General's office is investigating claims that the *Standard*'s proprietors improperly contrived to get a leading white judge to hear their application in January for a court order for Mr Chavunduka's release. "It is absolute rubbish," said Clive Wilson, the *Standard*'s managing director.

The 40-year-old Rhodesian law used by Mr Mugabe to charge Mr Chavunduka and Mr Choto also come under threat this week with an urgent appeal to the supreme court to abolish it on the grounds that it contravenes constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech.

Mickey Mouse is wooed by Chinese

FROM JILL MCGIVERING IN HONG KONG

A PRELIMINARY deal for Walt Disney to build a major theme park has been announced in Hong Kong by the territory's financial secretary, Donald Tsang. He said "a common understanding" had been reached, and hoped to announce a decision by July.

The news, likely to bring a much needed boost to Hong Kong's flagging tourism industry, was one of the few positive points in an otherwise sombre budget, delivered by Mr Tsang yesterday and described as the toughest of his career.

Hong Kong's deepest economic recession for decades is causing acute social hardship and political discomfort. Mr Tsang confirmed that recovery would be slow, and predicted a half per cent growth next year, with unemployment continuing to rise in the coming months.

Last year Mr Tsang answered a public call for a tax-cutting budget to ease the pain of the recession. Now there is far less left to offer — although local people did receive an instant gift of a one-off 10 per cent rebate on tax paid last year. Shops and restaurants, suffering a collapse in consumer confidence, will be hoping the handout will boost trade.



Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, holds up plans for a cyberport project yesterday after presenting his recession budget

Government revenues were hard hit last year by a nine-month halt on government land sales, traditionally a major source of income.

Rising unemployment and an ageing population added to a growing welfare bill. As a result, a deficit budget was unavoidable, said Mr Tsang.

Some analysts criticised the budget as unimaginative. Hong Kong's post-handover constitution gives limited room for manoeuvre. It instructs the Government to strive for fiscal balance and avoid deficits.

Mr Tsang is clearly conscious of the constraint, and is forced into an awkward position, coming under intense political pressure to stimulate the economy without having the revenue at his disposal.

Other measures included the building of a £1 billion cyberport, to support the development of an information services industry in Hong Kong, and a freeze on civil service pay and jobs. Mr Tsang also announced financial reforms, including the merger of stock and futures exchanges and a tightening of banking controls.

☐ **Beijing:** China's budget deficit is expected to balloon by 56 per cent in 1999 as Beijing accelerates spending in an effort to revive its flagging economy, the Hong Kong media reported. The reports said military spending would increase by 12.8 per cent to 104.65 billion yuan (£7.9 billion). *(AP)*

Doubts plague Australian republicans

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S republican movement is in serious trouble if the latest polls were to be reflected in November's referendum on the subject. Unless there is a marked shift, then the republican baby runs the risk of being thrown out with the bathwater.

Though a majority still favours a republic, the devil is in the detail of how a new head of state would be selected.

The referendum question poses a stark choice: selection of a President by Parliament or continuation of the monarchy.

The latest poll published in *The Australian* shows those in favour of a republic at 51 per cent, but 55 per cent are opposed to Parliament choosing that leader. Support for the republic is at a two-year high, down three percentage points from 1994.

There is no agreement on who might qualify as the first President. Australian intellectuals feel the country has to make the transition from worship of its sporting heroes to a truly Australian presidential figurehead. But the reality is that a sports personality might attract precisely the broad base of support needed.

Malcolm Turnbull, lawyer, chief of the investment bank Goldman Sachs in Australia and leader of the republican movement, said: "A no vote is a vote for pessimism ... for caveman conservatism. It's like saying, 'We've always been happy in a mud hut, let's keep it that way'."



Japan's health officials ready to swallow the Pill

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN, one of the last countries to continue to prohibit oral contraceptives, might soon lift the ban, despite opposition from male chauvinists who fear the Pill will unleash female promiscuity.

A key government committee yesterday again refused to approve the Pill, which has been commercially available in Western countries for more than 30 years. But officials said the Health Ministry's Central Pharmaceutical Council is expected to recommend at its June meeting that the Government legalise the Pill as a prescription drug.

The move follows criticism from women of the speed with which the health bureaucrats approved the impotence treatment drug Viagra in January. By contrast, the Pill has been entangled in red tape for 30 years as bureaucrats ponder possible negative effects on health and conservative politicians worry about the impact on a low fertility rate and the risks of female promiscuity.

Yuriko Ashino, deputy director of the Family Planning Federation of Japan, said: "The elderly men who rule Japan raced to approve a drug to enhance male sexuality, but women have had to wait for decades for the approval of a drug that would improve the quality of their life."

Ministry officials say they worry that use of the condom will plummet if the Pill catches on, leading to an increase in Aids and other sexual diseases. Medical experts, however, say the ban has more to do with the medical lobby, a big financial supporter of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Official statistics show that one in five unwanted pregnancies ends in abortion. Abortions, 340,000 of which are performed each year, cost from 100,000 to 200,000 yen (£500 to £1,000). A gynaecologist, who asked not to be named, said: "Abortions are a hugely profitable business ... Greedy doctors have kept up pressure on the Government not to approve the Pill."

Women's groups said yesterday that approval was not yet certain. The Health Ministry was set to approve the Pill in 1992, but then reversed its decision. Since then Japan has come under fire from the United Nations for its high number of unwanted pregnancies and for denying women a safe means of protecting their reprodutcive health. The Government is more sensitive to international criticism than to the outcry from their women.



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on the benefits of beta-blockers on heart failure; cigarette substitutes; a drug for children with attention deficit hyperactive disorder; sperm counts; saliva and HIV infections

Don't panic, it's only heart failure

The Oxford Dictionary defines failure, when used in relation to heart failure, as "breaking down or ceasing to function". Small wonder that patients become distressed when told that they have heart failure; they, too, may have been reading the dictionary. However, even without looking it up, they know about failure and that when their car engine breaks down the journey is over and their vehicle will be pushed ignominiously into a lay-by.

When they hear the diagnosis of heart failure, there is no need for patients to assume that their journey is over and that, like a clapped-out old banger, they are fit only for the scrapheap.

In medical terminology heart failure does not mean that the heart has stopped, or is even in imminent danger of stopping. To a doctor heart failure implies no more than that the heart no longer has the capacity to perform its work efficiently. As a result the feet, and sometimes abdomen, become swollen, the patient becomes breathless and abnormally tired.

Occasionally the breathlessness is acute at night and the patient may wake coughing, choking and with feelings of suffocation. After a few breaths of fresh air and a composed walk around the house calm is usually restored. Treatment can be modified to stop these attacks. Fortunately, there are drugs available that can be prescribed to improve the heart's function and to minimise the weakness that has brought about its failure to pump blood efficiently enough to keep the body's tissues fully supplied with oxygen and nutrients.

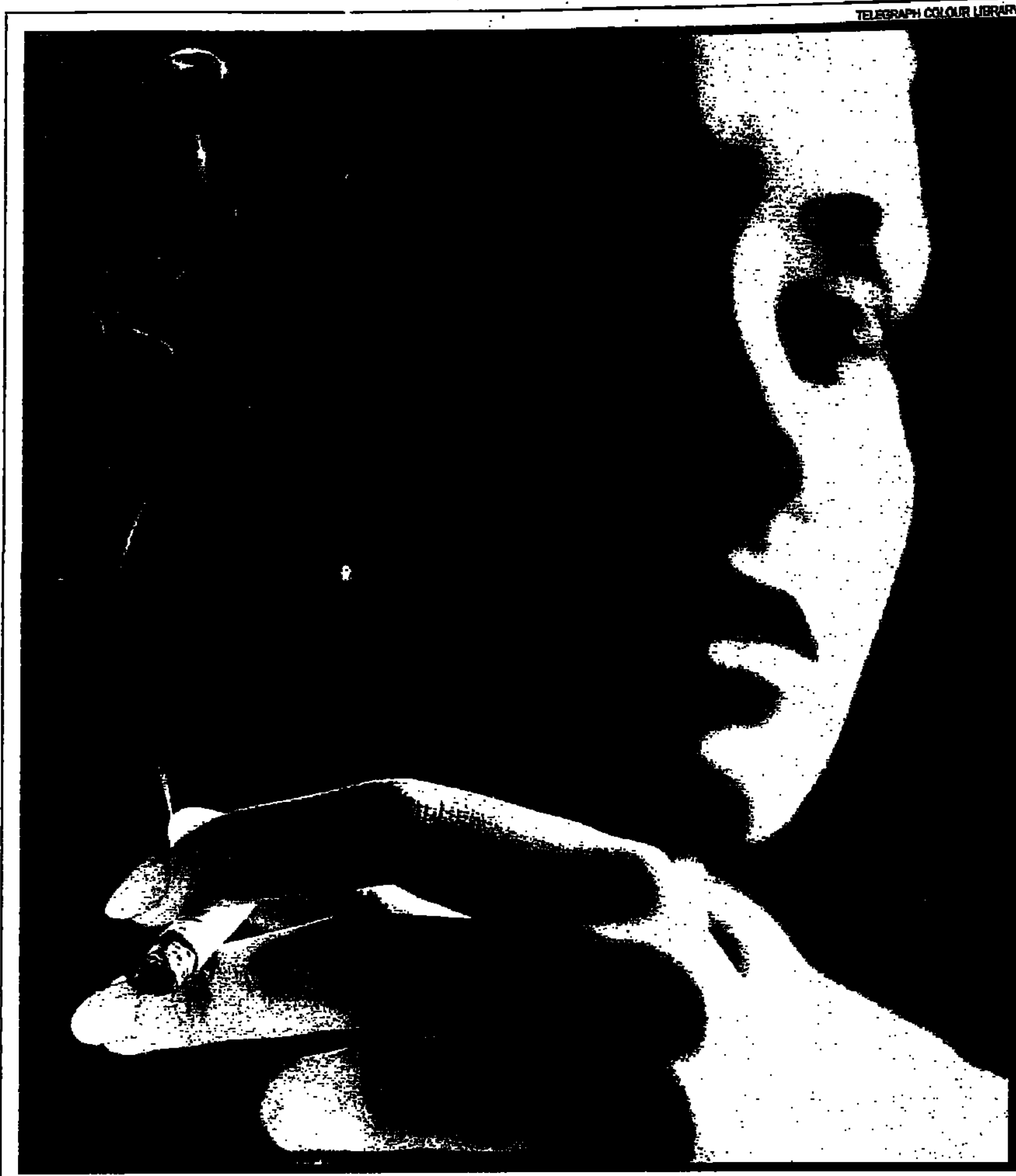
Heart failure, however, must be taken seriously. It affects between 1 and 3 per cent of the population, 8 per cent of those over 65 and 10 per cent of those over 80. The cost of inpatient care is £214 million a year, and the overall cost to the NHS is £360 million; and as the population ages, these figures are likely to rise.

The great hope for patients, and for the Treasury, is that medication may so improve that inpatient treatment becomes less frequent and more people can be treated as outpatients. There is excellent news for patients with congestive cardiac failure whose hearts need boosting. A recent trial has shown that when beta-blockers were taken regularly with an ACE inhibitor and a diuretic, there was a remarkable improvement in quality and length of life.

The trial was conducted using the beta-blocker bisoprolol fumarate, trade name Emcor or Monocor, or as a combination drug with a diuretic, Monozide. The first randomised placebo-controlled trial of treating heart failure by adding beta-blockers to the patient's standard medication showed that compared to using ACE inhibitors and diuretics alone, there is a remarkable improvement and that the sudden death rate was halved; death from all causes was reduced by a third; and hospital admissions cut by 30 per cent. So good were the results that it was considered unethical to continue with the trial as by so doing the treatment would have been withheld from those unfortunate enough to have been allocated other treatment.

The medical magazine *Monitor*, which has recently reviewed the use of beta-blockers with ACE inhibitors and diuretics in the treatment of heart failure, quotes Professor Milton Packer, of Columbia University, New York. He says that the evidence supporting the use of beta-blockers is so persuasive that all physicians now have a duty to prescribe these drugs for patients unless they are asthmatic or have a known intolerance to one or other of the drugs. Beta-blockers should become part of the strategy for preventing heart failure rather than rescuing patients who have already reached the end of the line.

Dr John Cleland, of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, warns that beta-blockers should be introduced slowly into treatment. "The amount of benefit provided by beta-blockers in heart failure appears even greater than that of ACE inhibitors."



TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

Addicted to the weed — nicotine-impregnated gum was found to help submariners when cigarettes were banned

A tablet to stop smoking

IN 1967, during the Cold War, Swedish submarines were staying submerged for increasingly long periods. Not unnaturally, the tempers of the crew members became frayed and their concentration began to lapse.

At first this was attributed to changed routines but then it was realised that the deterioration in the morale of the crew was not only related to longer periods on patrol but to a smoking ban.

Smoking would have been out of the question in the enclosed confines of the submarine, but banning it produced withdrawal symptoms in those who were nicotine-dependent.

Dr Claes Lundgren, who was carrying out research on submarine air quality and air pressure at the time, noticed the problems and consulted Ove Ferno, the head of research at Pharmacia, and asked him to produce a cigarette substitute that would restore the tattered nerves of smokers while not offending other crew members.

Chewing tobacco was a traditional sailors' way of absorbing nicotine, but the hawking and spitting that went with it was almost as repulsive as a smoke-laden atmosphere.

However, it gave Ferno the idea that nicotine was the key to the problem and that chewing gum might be an inoffensive way to absorb it.

Nicotine was bound to the gum so that it was released when the gum was chewed and was then absorbed directly through the mouth. Pharmacia, now Pharmacia & Upjohn, has been working on cigarette substitutes ever since.

Nicorette gum has been joined by patches, inhalers and a nasal spray and now a tablet, the Microtab. This is placed under the tongue and gives as good a blood level of nicotine as a patch, if not quite as effective as a cigarette.

Toddlers and amphetamines

ONE of the strangest paradoxes of medicine is that doctors who worked so hard to wean an earlier generation off purple hearts, and now do everything they can to dissuade teenagers and clubbers from taking amphetamines, are prescribing another amphetamine, Ritalin, for children. Is it acceptable to take Ritalin in the nursery yet criminal to use speed on the dance-floor?

Most doctors would agree that it was acceptable because Ritalin is the drug of choice for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) in children. Recently, however, the International Drugs Control Board, a United Nations agency, has given a warning that doctors in the UK are prescribing too much Ritalin to too many children.

Pulse magazine says that the UN report has called on Britain and nine other countries to "seek out possible over-diagnosis of ADHD and curb excessive use". In England, prescriptions have increased from 2,600 in 1992 to 92,000 in 1997. In answer to a parliamentary question just before Christmas, the then Health Minister, Alan Milburn, revealed that the number of NHS prescriptions for Ritalin had doubled in a year.

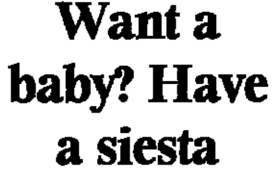
Not everybody views this with alarm. The journal *Young Minds*, which deals with children's emotional and psychiatric problems, quotes Dr Geoffrey Kewley, a consultant paediatrician at the West Sussex Learning Assessment Centre, who suggests that the increase does not necessarily represent inappropriate prescribing. One per cent of children in the UK suffer from hyperactivity, and many more other symptoms that form part of ADHD, but apparently only a fraction of them are on Ritalin as part of their treatment, many because no diagnosis has yet been made.

Children suffering from ADHD, previously known as hyperkinetic disorder, are never still, do not concentrate, are impulsive and apparently careless. They do not listen, and are infuriated when they have to wait to say something. They make many demands on parents, which would be bearable if the children went to bed on time and stayed there, but when peace should descend on the house, they are still running around.

Unfortunately, children with ADHD are as irritating to other children as to adults, and often end up friendless and feeling lonely and unloved. There is evidence that in adult life hyperactivity tends to disappear, but their attention span is still limited, and hyperkinetic children risk developing personality disorders in adult life.

Treatment is either with behavioural therapy, with medication, of which Ritalin is the best known, or with a combination of the two. Ritalin calms the child and increases attention span. Surprisingly, it also makes children less impulsive and more amenable to a reward and deterrent regime.

● *Further information from Young Minds: 0345 626376.*



Want a baby? Have a siesta

THE afternoon siesta has always been a bit of a puzzle to hard-working northern Europeans. Although it was assumed that Italian and Spanish men demanded the afternoon off because of the heat, it was also sometimes surmised that the siesta might lend itself to romantic interludes. However, until recently, nobody supposed that sex in the afternoon might have serious medical advantages, although its disadvantages for the elderly had already been recorded.

Intercourse is more likely to be associated with cardiovascular disasters in the afternoon than at any other time of the day. There are two explanations: the kindly one is that the excitement and exercise following a heavy lunch is too much for the coronary circulation, as much of the blood has been directed to the digestive tract. The less kindly one is that afternoon sex is more likely to be illicit, and hence liable to engender increased tension.



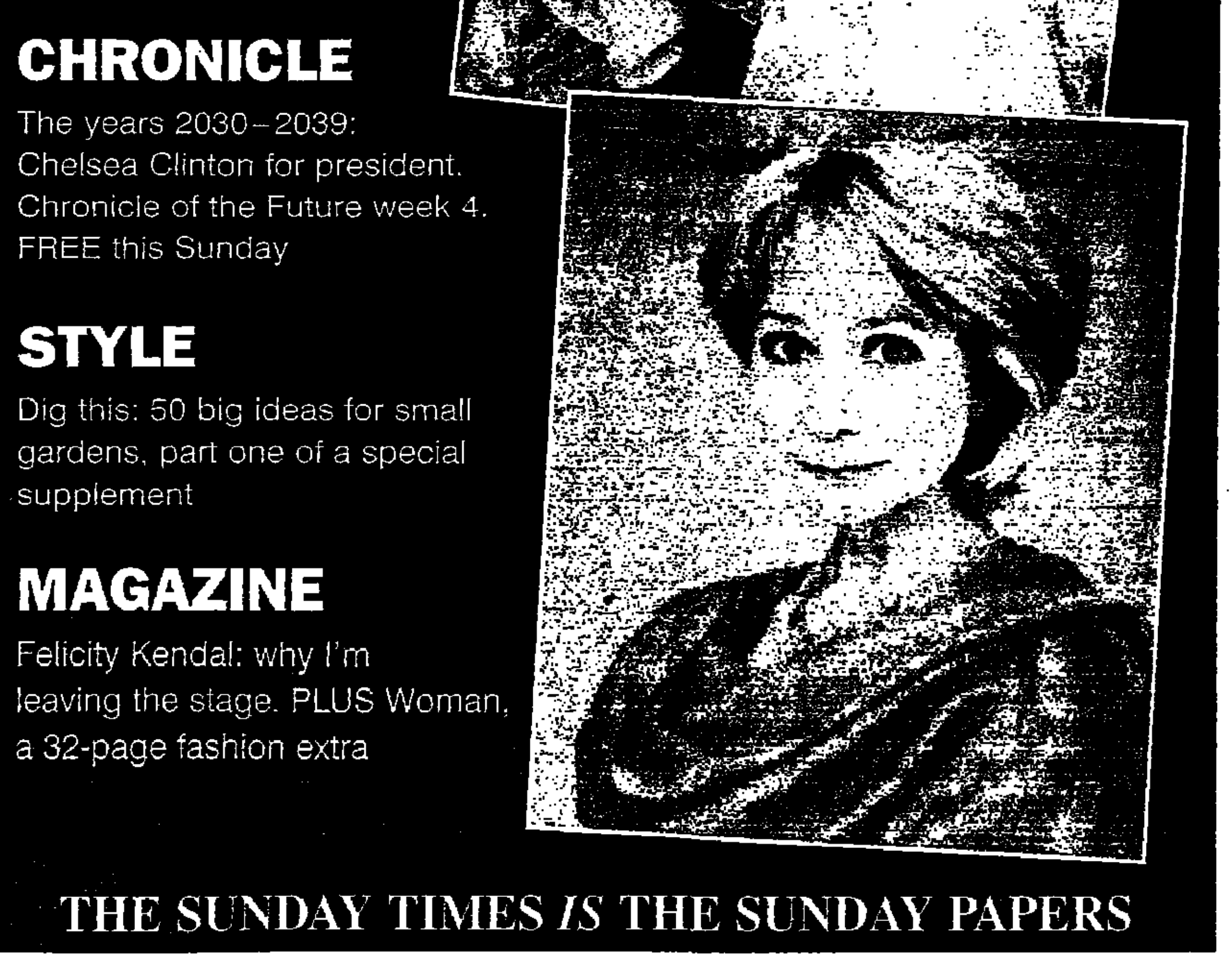
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Siesta baby: the chances of conception rise after lunchtime

An Italian study has now uncovered the advantages of afternoon lovemaking. It seems that the quality of men's semen is not constant throughout the day.

Fifty-four couples attending an infertility clinic have been monitored and the quality of morning semen and sperm compared with those of the afternoon. In the afternoon there were more sperm in the samples analysed, and the sperm were much more active and swam more determinedly. They were healthier in every way.

The report of this research in *Human Reproduction* and in the *British Medical Journal* suggests that couples who are finding it difficult to conceive could perhaps capitalise on the improved sperm count and better-quality afternoon semen, which contains more cytokines — proteins that have a stimulating influence on cells — and other nutrients.



Saliva can help to reduce the risk of HIV infection

WHEN HIV infections and Aids first disturbed the comparative calm of the genito-urinary clinics, we were frequently asked if it was safe to drink from a glass that had been used by an HIV-positive patient. Other patients were concerned about the Communion cup: was it helpful to wipe the chalice or did it spread the infectious organisms more evenly around the rim? Alarm was further increased when it was confirmed that saliva contains the HIV virus. Could it, people wondered, be transmitted by kissing?

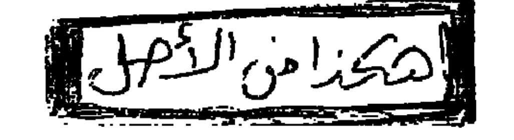
Fortunately, it seemed that although HIV was present in saliva and, for that matter, in tears, it wasn't spread in this way. The HIV virus is not as virulent or as infectious as usually supposed and is comparatively fragile.

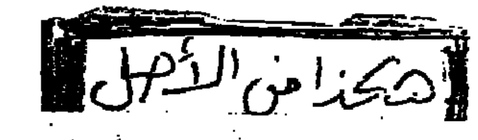
Experience soon showed that it was, in fact, safe to kiss a sobbing boyfriend or girlfriend, and that the likelihood of infection was no more than a theoretical risk. HIV was not transmitted in this way and was not ever likely to be unless the virulence of the virus changed.

HIV has occasionally been spread by saliva when it is heavily contaminated by blood. But even this transmission is very rare — so rare that it warrants a mention in the medical journals when it has been shown to have occurred.

As well as the real-life experience, laboratory research reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine has been studying saliva and its effect on the mononuclear leucocytes — white blood cells — carrying the virus.

In the experiments, saliva collected from healthy donors rapidly broke up the infected white cells from an HIV-positive donor and thereby stopped the virus from multiplying. Scientists have demonstrated what dogs have always known — that saliva is a good antiseptic.





The record for killing by machete was 1,000 every 20 minutes

The Hutus who killed the tourists in Uganda have a final solution for the Tutsis of Rwanda — Operation Insecticide. **Linda Melvern** reports

The men who bludgeoned to death the tourists in Uganda are among the most brutal killers the world has ever known. They have been described as lost to humanity, and so used to killing that the action of murder produces no feeling in them. They are brutalised and merciless, and they belong to the militia called the Interahamwe whose victims mostly bleed to death from machete wounds. In Rwanda in 1994, their part in the massacres ensured that the killing rate was five times faster than that achieved by the Nazis.

In a few months, one million people were killed. It was portrayed as a civil war, a tribal conflict between races, the Hutus and Tutsis, in which old conflicts and bitter rivalries lead to a primitive savagery.

The images of barbarity were relayed across the world: the machete attacks, the bodies floating down rivers, corpses piled by roadsides, seemed only to confirm the atavistic nature of the killing. Rwanda became just another African tragedy.

The truth was very different. What happened in Rwanda was genocide — deliberate, carefully planned and clinically carried out by an extremist Hutu group known as Hutu Power, using army units and gendarmes to drive people systematically from their homes and assemble them at pre-arranged places for slaughter.

Local administrators organised the disposal of bodies in rubbish trucks and the slaughter continued unhindered for three months, eliminating more than 12 per cent of the population.

The killing machine of this genocide was the Interahamwe, created two years before the genocide began as the youth wing of an extremist political party. Rwanda, with its collapsed economy and high unemployment, was a breeding ground for fascism. Young men with no work and no future were recruited from the streets.

Rwanda is the size of Wales and when the genocide started, the militia was estimated at 30,000-strong. Of all the militia groups, it was the Interahamwe who became the largest and best known.

The Interahamwe had training camps. The training lasted three weeks, and centred on torture and killing. The emphasis was how to kill at speed, and the record set for killing with a machete was 1,000 people killed every 20 minutes. There were videos on how to slash the Achilles tendon to prevent escape. To help to train recruits, people were snatched from their homes and taken to the camps, their bodies later buried in pits.

> Videos showed how to slash the Achilles tendon

The Interahamwe was centrally organised and disciplined, with leaders at neighbourhood level. The recruits were paid, and their families were given food, beer and clothing. Before the genocide began, Interahamwe committees were created in every one of Rwanda's 146 communes where there were hidden stockpiles of new machetes, hoes, axes and picks — all used as weapons. In each commune there were militia members. Some were issued with AK47s. The people were told that the militia was engaged in the civil defence of the country.

For 20 years Rwanda was ruled by a clique who came from the north and where the ideology known as Hutu Power was created. In pre-genocide Rwanda, hate propaganda taught that the minority Tutsis were outside human existence — that they were vermin and subhuman. They were called cockroaches and the hunting down and murder of Tutsis "and their Hutu accomplices" were described as communal work, necessary to "cleanse the country".

Thousands of Tutsis had been expelled from Rwanda in three great waves and, as refugees, had settled in camps in neighbouring states, creating Africa's largest refugee problem. In 1990, Rwanda was invaded from Uganda by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), a group fighting for the return to Rwanda of these refugees. The RPF wanted power-sharing, an end to the backward and embarrassing dictatorship, an end to the ethnic divide and compulsory identity cards. There followed three years of civil war, which finally ended with an international agreement for refugee return and power-sharing. To the outside world, Rwanda was on the road to democracy.

We may never know the exact moment when the Hutu Power plotters first conceived the genocide, when those ruling the country, a group of ruthless, opinionated and evil people, plotted to destroy the peace process.

They had one big idea and it was simple — to eliminate those with whom they were to share power. The plan of these Hutu Power ideologues was no secret. Two years before the genocide, Western intelligence reports gave warning that Hutu Power was planning to exterminate the Tutsis and moderate Hutu opposition, to prevent democracy and concluded that moderate members of the military, and the Cabinet, as well as the young educated officers and the intellectuals, were powerless. If anyone tried to impose democracy, it would serve only to provoke resistance. This is precisely what happened.

Six months before the genocide started, a new radio station was created in Rwanda (*Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines*, known as RTLMC). Among the diplomatic corps in Rwanda the radio station was very soon a joke, for its announcers used street language, disc jockeys, pop music and phone-ins. Sometimes its announcers were drunk and the jokes became offensive, vulgar and crude, for the station was designed to appeal to the Interahamwe. Its announcers claimed that the peace agreement was a Tutsi plot. Over the airwaves the Tutsis were described as evil and clever, a well-off "foreign" minority. The radio station prepared the people progressively for genocide and when the genocide began, its broadcasters endorsed it and encouraged it.

> Every clerk, teacher and priest was butchered

On the night the genocide began, April 6, 1994, everyone in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, who was pro-democracy or anyone who had spoken out against the regime, was hunted down and killed. Within the next few hours every journalist, every lawyer, every professor, every teacher, every civil servant, every priest, every doctor, every clerk, every student — all were murdered in a house-to-house operation undertaken by the 1,500 strong Presidential Guard and the militia. Those who tried to escape found road blocks manned by a militia growing in numbers, for the new recruits to the killing machine were given the property and possessions of the victims.

One of the United Nations peacekeepers who had come to monitor the transition from dictatorship to democracy described: "... he just held him by his shirt and started dragging him ... and just raised his machete and hacked him on the head ... he did that twice ... after that, he just rubbed his bloodstained machete on his buttocks, and then searched the victim's pockets ... not long after, there was a tipper-truck with prisoners who had been detailed to collect bodies from the streets and someone flagged it down and dragged the body from under the tree and threw it into the tipper-truck, which was almost full and people were moaning and crying, you could see that some were not dead ..."

Only the RPF, the mainly Tutsi army, tried to stop the genocide but by the time this army reached Kigali in July, there were hardly any Tutsis left to save.

Like the fact of the Nazi Holocaust, the very idea of genocide beggars belief. Genocide extends beyond killing, for it covers the prevention of birth; to annihilate a people, it is necessary to kill women and children. Genocide is difficult to comprehend for it tends to be seen as an aberration rather than a system. It is not. Genocide has to be planned.

The story of the Rwanda genocide is beyond belief, a terrible story, made worse because its true nature is so often deliberately distorted by Hutu Power propagandists, adept at manipulating the international community and even managing, at the height of their genocide, to get a hearing before the UN Security Council.

The Interahamwe continues to train and rearm. The Hutu Power extremists remain convinced of the rectitude of their behaviour and are determined to complete their task — the extermination of Tutsis. They plan to destabilise the region and then invade Rwanda, a plan which is code-named Operation Insecticide.

The author is a British journalist whose most recent book, The Ultimate Crime, *was published by Allison and Rusby in 1995. She is working on a book explaining the circumstances of the genocide in Rwanda, to be published later this year.*



Woman in arms: hate propaganda taught that the minority Tutsis were outside human existence

Why Beryl speaks for the nation

Speaking correct English matters, says **Penny Wark**

Funny things, accents. In the politically correct land of Blair, it is not clever to condemn someone because of the way they speak. Yet we all have our prejudices, and we use them to judge people we meet.

It took Beryl Bainbridge, herself from Liverpool, to be brave enough to make this point after winning the WH Smith award for her novel *Master Georgie*. Regional accents should be wiped out, she said, and you could sense a frisson of embarrassment from the sponsors as a spokesman felt obliged to expand her remarks. This was unnecessary. When Bainbridge said "You've got to learn to speak properly", many of us knew what she meant. This was not an attack on the idiosyncrasies of Liverpudlian, the gormlessness of Birmingham phonetics or the popular association between Cockney and wide-boy behaviour.

These are caricatures, though there are plenty who believe that accents constitute a handicap and dispose of them at the earliest opportunity (who would guess that Sue Lawley grew up in Dudley?) Bainbridge may have ditched her Liverpool accent (my Yorkshire accent has been more robust) but what she was attacking was the pernicious erosion of the English language which has a little to do with accent but much more to do with grammar.

At the risk of sounding like my mother (whose enunciation would put a 1950s' BBC announcer to shame), I admit that my hackles rise every time I hear someone say "them books", "I done it", "it weren't me, nah". This is the language of Harry Enfield's Kevin the teenager; it is classless and can be heard on buses and trains from Essex to Derbyshire, from Teeside to Bristol, as well as at press conferences given by Glenn Hoddle.

I know children who speak like Kevin to their friends but who, when talking to adults, resume their parents' conventional speech patterns. More worryingly, I know others who speak like Kevin and write as they talk. They have not been taught grammar. They cannot spell either, but they insist that this doesn't matter because computers have spellcheck. Why should they change the way they speak when footballer role models do little more than grunt and TV icons speak faux-Essex?

Doubtless Beryl Bainbridge's remarks were informed by concern about who will write the novels of the future. If the post-millennium nation has no grasp of conventional English, who will compose tax forms and letters from the bank manager? Computers presumably. Who will write newspapers? It is not uncommon for young journalists, Oxbridge graduates every one, to rely on spellcheck and to be in acute need of grammar check.

What a strange nation we have become that we squirm at the Hoddle-isation of our language but feel it is insensitive to express this. If Hoddle's speech represents the death throes of our language, we should be grateful for Bainbridge, who should be hailed its patron saint.



A voyage round my father

The centenary of Eric Linklater, a peasant with a noble pen

Next week is my father's centenary. I feel suddenly ancient. To have had a 19th-century parent, born in the Victorian era, gives one a genetic link with history, but it also makes one sound incredibly old.

My father, Eric Linklater, witnessed the great events of his time, fought, and nearly died, in the First World War, saw the last flowering of the British Empire in India, relished the insanities of America in the Prohibition age, gave warnings about the dangers of Hitler, chronicled the advance of the Eighth Army through Italy, reported on the Korean War, and lived to see the last Apollo mission to the Moon. Through all this time, he wrote, wrote and wrote.

I've added up the novels, the histories, the essays and the plays, and it comes to more than 80 books. Among them are several that I believe will last, and I am delighted that two — *Private Angelo* and *The Dark of Summer* — are to be republished by Canongate this year so that others can judge. The late Anthony Burgess thought he was "one of the finest craftsmen of the century". Who am I to disagree?

His compulsion to write drove him often to the brink of exhaustion. But where it came from is something I still do not fully understand. There was no writing tradition in the family. His father was a master mariner, his forebears farmers and fishermen from Orkney. He described himself, inadequately, as "a peasant with a pen".

Magnus Linklater

I suspect that the horrors of that first war and his own brush with death may have had something to do with it. A German bullet pierced the back of his helmet and took part of his skull off. That he survived at all was a miracle, that he did so when so many of his dearest friends were killed seems to have induced a fierce energy, a determination to fill every waking hour with new experiences, and somehow to compensate for those deaths. He travelled remorselessly, entertained lavishly, filled his house with strange and exotic people, fell into black rages when life failed to meet the standards he set it.

None of this made him an easy father. He had high expectations of his children, and we seem to have fallen regularly short of them. My brother remembers him "striving repeatedly and angrily to mould us to a less irritating form," and my own memories of childhood are interspersed with moments of high tension when my ignorance about the history of the Klondyke, or the whereabouts of Lake Titicaca was lamentably exposed.

Today's parents would consider his ideas about upbringing impossibly authoritarian, even oppressive. To test your children on general knowledge in front of others, to expect them to join in adult conversation round the table, to impose an inflexible code of behaviour, all these would be regarded as unacceptably harsh by modern standards. My own reaction was to fly in the opposite direction, to determine that my children would be allowed to develop at their own pace, free of the narrow disciplines under which we grew up. I doubt if I have made a better fist of it than he did, though I think I do have an easier-going relationship with my children. But, looking back, I envy his moral certainties, and the more I read again about the things he cared for, the stronger the chord they touch. I find myself frequently comparing my beliefs with his, and wondering what he would have made of today's neurotic generation.

He would, I know, have been shocked by the decline in standards of literacy. He was taught at Aberdeen Grammar School, which offered a classical education, and which expected its pupils, at the age of 15, to have read Macaulay, Ruskin, Addison and Temple; Byron, the school's most famous former pupil, was added as light relief.

My father believed that a Scottish education was the finest in the world, but he was by no means narrow-minded on the subject — which may explain why he sent his two sons to Eton and Winchester respectively. He would have shunned the political correctness of the day, being too much of an individualist to accept that the State had any right to meddle with private standards of behaviour. His address to the students of Aberdeen University, when he was elected Rector in 1946, was entitled "The Art of Adventure" and encouraged them to challenge convention wherever possible. "Individualism has its dangers and is capable of evil," he said, "but the individual has a power of good for which there is no substitute at the conference table."

As a British patriot, he would probably have been a Eurosceptic, unhappy with the prospect of an alien bureaucracy threatening the sovereignty of the State.

But as a devoted Scot, he would certainly have favoured devolution. He had stood as an early candidate for the National Party of Scotland in the East Fife by-election of 1933, but disliked the undercurrent of anti-Englishness that so often accompanied Scottish nationalism. His view was that, while the Union had been of great benefit to individual Scots, it had steadily drained the country of its best people. Until Scotland had more control over its own affairs, he felt, it would never achieve its full potential.

In a remarkable prescient essay in 1936, he concluded: "History would seem to be on the side of the Nationalists, for a quality of resurgence has been so regular a characteristic of Scotland as to appear, if not inevitable, at least normal . . . Our little renaissance, that we discuss so earnestly, and our new politics, that do not yet interest many, may be the prelude to a new era."

I hope he's wrong about nationalism. But I cannot fault his analysis. And I'm proud to salute his 100th anniversary on Monday.

comment@the-times.co.uk



The immoral majority

The Right wanted to punish Clinton for the sins of the Sixties generation

"This is a gloat-free zone", the White House spokesman famously declared last month, after the US Senate finally put a stop to the creeping constitutional coup against Bill Clinton.

Had I not been on holiday at the time, I would definitely have ignored this injunction. As one of the few commentators who believed from the start that the Monica Lewinsky "scandal" would actually work to the President's advantage, gloating seemed to me an entirely natural and healthy reaction to the disgrace which the Republican Party and the self-styled moral majority have brought upon themselves.

The American Right had waged a prurient, hypocritical and anti-democratic smear campaign to unseat a President whom they had repeatedly failed to defeat through the normal political process. As a result they had not only exposed the American presidency and Congress to derision, but they also brought the Constitution and the rule of law into disrepute. For these offences, they fully deserved the political punishment meted out by voters in last year's congressional election and the graver consequences they will probably suffer in the presidential election next year.

In any case, the period of embarrassed silence that followed the Senate impeachment vote has been abruptly interrupted by last night's interview on American television with Ms Lewinsky. This morning, the whole world will once again be talking about the moral, philosophical and geopolitical significance of broadcasting sex shows directly from the White House.

That brings me to a reason more interesting and important than party politics for indulging in a bit of gloating about the political discomfiture of America's Far Right. Monica is already being described as a cultural icon, whose natural rapport with the American psyche could turn her into a sort of downmarket, demotic Californian version of Diana, Princess of Wales. This comparison will probably turn out to be an hysterical overstatement and an insult to the memory of the truly remarkable Princess. But the fact that Ms Lewinsky is emerging as the popular heroine of this tawdry drama speaks volumes about the triumph of social libertarianism in modern culture and about the magnitude of the historic miscalculation made by the American Right.

It was a cliché of the late 1980s that the successful politicians of the future would learn to mix right-wing economics with the libertarian social precepts that had traditionally been associated with the Left. The slogan of the 1990s would be "free markets and free love". But curiously enough, this libertarian formula was quickly forgotten by the conservative political parties whose most successful leaders, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, had in the early 1980s inaugurated the new era of economic and social laisser faire. They tried to create a politics of economic *and* social conservatism combined. They were committing a huge historical error, by trying to restore the values of the 1950s for generations whose attitudes were ineradicably influenced by the following permissive decades.

Anatole Kaletsky

The leaders of the "moral" Right became obsessive in their pursuit of President Clinton because they saw him as a carrier of the moral infection that was destroying American society. He was the quintessential representative of the 1960s, an era of sexual permissiveness and social rebellion, which had destroyed America's self-confidence and its respect for established authority.

The moral majority saw the 1960s as an aberrational period of self-indulgence, sandwiched between the stability of the 1950s and the equally disciplined, if far less prosperous, era of hard work bred by economic insecurity that followed the oil shocks of 1974 and 1979. They saw their views affirmed by the repeated election victories of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Reagan in the 1980s. The swing to conservatism among the young people of the 1980s — the "young fogeys" of Britain and the "me generation" of America — seemed to confirm their faith that the fundamental "decency" of their societies had been blighted only temporarily by the counter culture of the 1960s.

The conservatives were convinced that Bill Clinton's victory over George Bush in 1992 was nothing more than a temporary setback. The Republicans would soon be back in charge in the White House and their entire economic political and social agenda would prevail because "history was on their side". They saw Mr Clinton and his whole generation as moral pollutants, not as legitimate political opponents. Clinton must have tricked his way into power, since the American people would never have knowingly accepted his decadent values.

It was because they regarded Mr Clinton as a moral pollutant that they were so determined to destroy him. Linda Tripp revealed this most poignantly in her famous tapes, when she described her disgust at the slovenly manners and bad language with which Mr Clinton's lieutenants had desecrated the White House. It was because Mr Clinton's opponents saw his election as *ipso facto* illegitimate that they were so ruthless in the methods they employed against him. And it was because they viewed the 1960s as an aberration that they were so confident in the success of their attempted coup, despite the overwhelming constitutional and legal odds in the President's favour.

The American Right was absolutely convinced, almost up to the day of Mr Clinton's acquittal, that history and the great "silent majority" of the American people was on their side. But last month this illusion suddenly and traumatically vanished. For this observation you do not have to take the word of a gloating foreign commentator who last lived in America almost ten years ago. Look at the reactions of the leaders of America's Right itself.

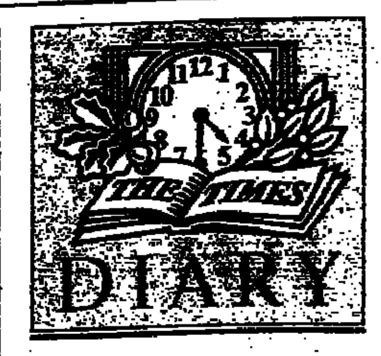
Consider the wail of defeat posted on the Internet by Paul Weyrich, the founder of the Free Congress Foundation who proudly invented the term "moral majority" to describe his followers: "I no longer believe that there is a moral majority. I do not believe that a majority of Americans actually shares our values. We have to separate ourselves from this hostile culture." Or think about the political sigificance of this contemptuous comment about America by William Bennett, the former Republican Education Secretary and self-styled moral crusader. The American people, he said, are now "complicit in Clinton's corruption". Modern Americans, had become an "ignoble" race. Or look at the closing statement of Henry Hyde, Mr Clinton's chief prosecutor in the Senate trial: "I wonder if after this culture war is over an America will survive that is worth fighting to defend".

Now that the moral Right has conceded defeat, or at least abandoned its arrogant majoritarian illusions, the interesting question is what this will do to the dominant socio-economic forces of the next decade. The easy prediction would be an unchallenged triumph for the combination of economic and social libertarianism — "free markets and free love". But such a conclusion is probably too pat.

Social and economic liberalism may share the word "freedom", but they are also in natural tension, as the authoritarians of the moral majority, through their blinkered prejudices instinctively perceived. Capitalism depends on a degree of social discipline, a puritan work ethic and an acceptance of economic inequality that are not always compatible with a moral relativism which asserts that everyone's values are equal and that people have the right to behave exactly as they like. Successful capitalism depends on political stability, respect for authority and a good deal of social cohesion. After a long period of prosperity these disciplines tend to break down.

The ultimate irony of the Lewinsky scandal is that, in the coming decade, some of the moral majority's Jeremiahs predicting a social and economic breakdown reminiscent of the 1960s might even be proved right.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



Inside lane

SEBASTIAN COE has abandoned plans to return to the Commons. The Olympic gold medallist was tipped to fight Martin Bell's Tatton seat but has been persuaded by William Hague to stay by his side at least until the general election.

My tame chalk stripe at Central Office says that Coe wants to stay aboard Hague's storm-tossed ship, which will deprive him of the time needed to win a seat.

"I am not walking away from politics, it will just be politics in a different role," he confides. Coe, who lost his seat in 1997, showing rare faith in Hague's shaky prospects, believes he has found a fast lane to Downing Street.

THERAPY for Chris Smith and his significant other, Dorian Jabri — who were seen consulting agony queen Claire Rayner at Joe Allen's recently. Claire assures me the Culture Secretary's 12-year friendship with Dorian is strong: "We are all good friends and were simply gossiping like fury."

■ BERNIE ECCLESTONE is to direct his largesse to the Tories. After his £1 million bung to Tony Blair was returned by No 10, the Formula One motoring racing boss thinks William Hague could benefit from the same goldmine.

"I'll give money to the Tories now. They're the ones who need it, not Labour," Ecclestone tells me. "I only offered Labour money when they looked like they needed help. In their current state, the Tories aren't a proper Opposition."

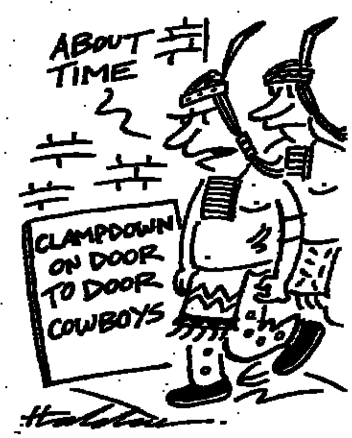


AFTER zooming round the track with the Tory Dr Liam Fox, Natalie Imbruglia (above) is back in the cockpit. The Australasian chanteuse has been tearing around a racetrack at 136mph to prepare for a celebrity race before Sunday's grand prix. "I don't know if I'm a danger to anyone, but this is going to be lots of fun."

■ SIX of the best for Chris Woodhead, who is to receive a poor mid-term report following an inquiry into his captaining of Ofsted, the schools watchdog.

The silver fox has charmed few members of the Education Select Committee who have studied his work and could call for his sacking.

"There is a time when the head of an outfit detracts from the work itself," Valerie Davey, MP, of the select committee tells me. "He is the sort who would not help a toddler walk, but would sit back studying it, ticking off its progress."



GOOD to hear Jon Snow has reconciled his principles with the big wad paid to Monica Lewinsky to spill the beans tonight. Snow was heard telling colleagues: "I have no problem with chequebook journalism, as long as some of the cheque goes to me." Quite.

■ RED KEN is flying high. Our mayoral hopeful has accepted a free trip to Cuba to celebrate BA's new route. Is it worse for Livingstone to whoop it up with Castro, or to enjoy the hospitality of that free-market fetishist Robert Ayling?

I AM sorry to hear that Conrad Black, the Daily Telegraph *proprietor, was upset to read here that his dashing director, Lord Cranborne, thinks his paper has been "licking the arse of the aristocracy". He told the peer he was particularly cross to read the news "in our big rival". At least you now know where to find the news first, Conrad.*

JASPER GERARD

'Oxbridge has declared itself open to students of all backgrounds, but the brightest and best have replied with a two-fingered salute'

Hannah Betts

According to the Australian novelist Christina Stead, "A self-made man is one who believes in luck and sends his son to Oxford".

Throughout the history of "Oxbridge", complaints have gone up that the universities are opening their gates to the great unwashed. From 16th-century anxieties that Tudor reforms had produced too many undergraduates without claim to hereditary gentility, to the great postwar influx of working-class scholars born of the welfare state, a self-appointed old guard has been ready to defend the dreaming spires from the riffraff.

At the close of the 20th century the riffraff have emerged triumphant. Oxbridge has declared itself open to students of all social, racial and religious backgrounds. The brightest and best of the nation's youth have replied with a two-fingered salute.

Tomorrow the universities are expected to unveil a major survey into what motivates state school students to apply to or, more importantly, to reject Oxford and Cambridge as their prospective alma maters. The results are likely to make depressing reading for institutions that have bent over backwards to advertise their egalitarian credentials. After three decades of access plans and target schools initiatives, the knee-jerk stereotypes about Oxbridge are as abundant as ever.

First off the block. The universities have the largest private and public schools admissions in the country. Wrong. If you want to hang out with posh kids, head to Durham or Exeter.

Misconception number two. Degrees from Oxbridge are more expensive. Wrong. It costs no more to study at Oxford and Cambridge, and given the strenuous provision of low rents, scholarships, travel grants and book bursaries found at many colleges, it may even cost less.

Enter the third insidious Oxbridge delusion. Competition to get in is more fierce than any where else. Wrong again. In the main, about three applicants compete for each place, far less than for Bristol, Sheffield or Manchester where the number is likely to be about ten.

Of course, what this third point shows is that a significant amount of self-selection is taking place. And here we move beyond mere factual misconceptions into the realm of the urban myth. Prospective students fail to appreciate that Oxbridge is only ever the sum of its parts — the students and academics — and not some vampiric anachronism forever in search of new blood to renew its ancient carcass. Literature, of course, has a lot to answer for. The shadow of *Brideshead* stretches long over Oxbridge quads, even — perhaps especially — for those who have not read it. From Charles Ryder's first encounter with plovers' eggs, through Max Beerbohm's majestic *Zuleika Dobson*, to the painfully diffident hero of Philip Larkin's *Jill*, the Oxbridge myth is itself the subject of legend.

That said, a spirit of cultivated anachronism does prevail at these universities. This amounts to more than their stage-sets of ancient architecture and Cotswold stone. It is embedded in the language of the place — is Mods and Tripos, exhibitions and collections — the Bod and Quad patois that one is forced to adopt from the moment one "comes up". Coupled with a sense of ceremony that would shame a masonic lodge, this idiom can make the place seem exclusive.

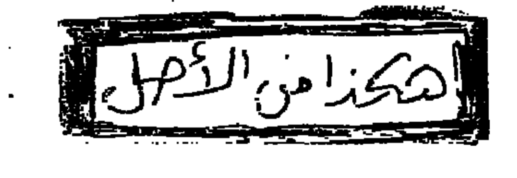
Ultimately, however, this seems to be less of a factor than the question of student lifestyle. Why go to a university where the student union is more likely to play host to Edwina Currie than Oasis? Why go somewhere where the syllabus is set in stone, rather than some pick'n'mix offering with more kudos?

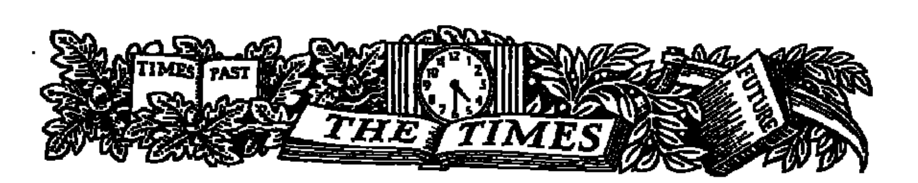
Edwina apart, this argument misses the mark. Oxbridge has three key selling points — the calibre of its tutors, its tutorial system and its libraries — which let the student devise a tailor-made academic programme beyond comparison. That's the beauty of ancient institutions — the undergraduate is just one in a long line of radical, or less than radical youth, and the institution is flexible enough to take it.

This, finally, is how Oxbridge should sell itself. And, if it's searching for a literary role-model, it should look no further than Andrea Ashworth, research fellow at Jesus College, Oxford.

In her novel, *Once In A House On Fire*, Dr Ashworth writes about the way in which Oxford allows you to reinvent yourself. This is not the pitiful reinvention of Larkin's *Jill*, but a gloriously positive transformation where you can throw off the shackles of childhood and liberate yourself through learning. Where the great weight of the Oxbridge myth can be used to buttress yourself against the intellectual poverty of your past. If Oxbridge needs to "get real", this is the reality it should grasp. Copies should be sent to all sixth forms.

hannah.betts@the-times.co.uk





COMPLETELY BANANAS

Stop this stupid quarrel before it does the world real damage

It beggars belief that the inability of the European Union to settle a six-year-old dispute with the United States, over a fruit that neither of them grows, could set the world's two greatest trading powers at loggerheads, hobble the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and risk a renewed outbreak of protectionism that would abort the world's chances of economic recovery from the collapse of emerging markets. It affronts justice that the main victims of the 100 per cent tariffs that the US is poised to impose on EU exports should be companies in Britain, the least protectionist country in the EU. But it accords entirely with experience that it is footdragging by the European Commission, which handles all EU trade policy, which has brought things to this absurd, and dangerous, pass.

The problem is the EU's banana regime which favours growers in former British and French colonies in the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific. The US claims that this breaks global trade rules by discriminating against Central American growers (and thus against corporate US giants, such as Chiquita Brands, which market the bulk of this "banana republic" production). So far, while threatening unilateral action, the US has played by the rules. The EU, for all its protests to the contrary, has not.

The US has hauled the EU three times before international trade disputes panels, beginning in 1994. Each time, it has won. The EU simply ignored the first two judgments, exploiting loopholes in the enforcement procedures of the WTO's predecessor, the Gatt. When the US tried again, in 1997, under the tougher new WTO rules which the EU is powerless to block, it again obtained judgment. But, ignoring the storm signals in Washington, the EU did nothing until last October, when the exasperated Clinton Administration announced that unless the EU obeyed the WTO by January 1, when the 15-month deadline set by WTO adjudicators expired, America would impose punitive tariffs on £310 million worth of EU exports on March 3. The EU then modified, but did not scrap, the banana regime.

The US claims, with reason, that the changes are only cosmetic. The EU retorts that it will do nothing unless the WTO, to which the whole issue has yet again been referred, outlaws the new regime — and that the US cannot meanwhile lawfully exact compensation. That is dubious; and in any case, it is utter folly for Brussels to take a matter on which it has long been in the wrong down to the wire like this.

Wisely, the US let yesterday's deadline for imposing the tariffs drop. But, for two reasons, this temporary stay of execution in no way lessens the urgency of finding a way out. The first is that, particularly for Scottish cashmere producers who are most vulnerable to the £72 million worth of punitive tariffs against British exports, the probability that they will be imposed is just as damaging to forward orders and profitability as their actual imposition. The second is that unless President Clinton can demonstrate that the EU and others can be held to their WTO obligations, Congress will not only insist that the US resort in future to unilateral action, but turn firmly against the planned new round of trade liberalisation that the whole world needs.

Americans are increasingly aggrieved that the US, which this year faces a record $300 billion trade deficit, is bearing almost all the load of helping stricken countries trade their way out of trouble while the EU myopically rejoices in its trade surplus. In a tense climate, this stupid skirmish could trigger a trade war. Britain must insist that Brussels sue now for peace, before enormous damage is done. The EU should long ago have done far more to ease the dependence of the Caribbean on bananas; extremely generous EU aid must now be part of the solution. This battle must end, or the whole world will go bananas.

POLL POSITION

A set of elections with more threats for Hague than Blair

There are few signs of election fever in the country so far but this will be an unusually demanding year for democracy. An unprecedented array of campaigns will very soon flood over the political landscape. In May, most of England is due to vote in local elections, while in Scotland and Wales council battles will be supplemented by the initial contests for, respectively, a parliament and an assembly. Barely after that the whole nation will, on June 10, vote in the European Parliament elections. As an aid to the new institutions and unfamiliar electoral systems, *The Times* today publishes a comprehensive election guide for 1999.

The traditional political aspects of the struggle this year are as distinctive as those that flow from the new arts of devolution and proportional representation. Labour and Liberal Democrats, so apparently close at Westminster, will be engaged in a bitter fight for control of many English cities. The subsequent peacetime relations between the two parties may have impact on the Liberal Democrat leadership contest. The Conservatives, while relatively united for the May elections, will face the small but divisive challenge from the "Pro-Euro Conservative Party" formed by a set of disenchanted MEPs and ex-MEPs. This dispute has acquired extra significance in the light of Tony Blair's marked shift last week in favour of joining EMU.

Mid-term elections are conventionally portrayed as a crucial political test for a government; and this is an exceptionally testing sample of national sentiment. In truth, however, Mr Blair can afford to be the more relaxed of the two main party leaders. Labour's biggest enemies this year are a low turnout and the dubious record of some local authorities. The Tories, on the other hand, must try to recapture large expanses of territory lost four years ago.

That 1995 election represented the absolute low point of Conservative fortunes in the last Parliament, indeed the past century. Nearly 60 authorities and 1,885 individual council seats in England and Wales alone slipped from their grasp. A recovery on a similar scale would be necessary before William Hague could claim that he was on course to become Prime Minister. That sort of landslide is unlikely. The Tory fear is that a more modest advance — fewer than 1,000 councillors — would intensify the spotlight on the European Parliament elections and his party's performance then.

There is little that Mr Hague can do to prevent the European contest exposing internal friction. He will make it clear that those who support the pro-Euro renegades cannot remain party members. But he has to be careful to distinguish between that outright act of disloyalty and individual dissent over the single currency. To appear to threaten Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine that they will be "out on their ears" if they fail to echo his line is to issue a bluff that invites calling. Mr Hague should confront dissenters only where he can win.

The Tory leader is investing much of his energies in the English local, Scottish parliament, and Welsh assembly elections. A robust result here would strengthen him before the European contest. The Tories have taken the first steps towards renouncing their past acts of centralisation. They should add further measures, for example attacking Labour councils that do not plan to introduce directly elected mayors. Mr Hague must do well in local elections if he is to establish his authority in the second.

JAM TOMORROW

Dundee, city of jute, journalism and rejuvenation

This month Dundee celebrates the opening of a splendid new arts centre. Spacious galleries and auditoriums will bring the best of contemporary culture to a place once dismissed as dour. Dundee — a classic example of a city which fell into post-industrial decline — has become a pioneer in proving how a depressed society may pull itself back up by its bootstraps.

In school geography books, Dundee's doughty industrial past is summarised in the three j's: jam, jute and journalism. The jam — marmalade — was invented in 1797 by the wife of John Keiller, a grocer who had bought up a cargo of Seville oranges from a becalmed Spanish ship and then wondered what to do with it. Some 50 years later, Dundee's proximity to whaling stations accidentally offset the degeneration of the cotton industry. With the discovery that jute fibres could be softened with whaling oil and then processed with the machinery that had been used for linen, Dundee grew wealthy as the world centre for jute. The old Dundee company, D.C. Thompson, publisher of the *Sunday Post*, of *Beano* and *Dandy*, has nurtured some of the city's most famous sons.

Although jute and journalism still linger, the jam manufacturer has gone — bought by Rank Hovis and transferred south. But if this deprives the city of one of its j's, the famous alliteration may remain as Dundee earns esteem as the city of rejuvenation. In the 1930s, James Cameron, doyen of Dundee press men, wrote that the city "could have stood as a symbol of a society that had gone sour", a set "for the more embittered works of Chekhov".

The decline continued. By the 1960s, gripped by high unemployment, Dundee became the fief of corrupt city councillors of the extreme left. The flag of the Palestine Liberation Organisation fluttered in the city chambers, Pravda lay on library shelves, and Ford dropped massive investment plans after a bitter union dispute.

The city realised that it had to reinvent itself. Taking inspiration from *Discovery*, Captain Scott's polar exploration vessel built in this Scottish seaport and recently returned there, Dundee relaunched itself as "the city of discovery". It has since become one of the world's fastest growing biotechnology centres, with heavy investments made in medical and genetic research. Equally important, at a time when most councils are cutting back on arts expenditure, Dundee is increasing its budget. Its new arts centre joins a thriving repertory company, a community drama programme and impressive dance studios. "Bonny Dundee" sets a valuable example in its understanding that, to attract investment back to its centre, it must first offer people an attractive place to live.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Time for 'healing' on women priests

From the General Secretary of the Modern Churchpeople's Union and Ms Monica Furlong

Sir, We are writing, as representatives of over 100 members of the Church of England, to suggest that the Act of Synod, originally passed as a "holding device" to help those who had difficulty with the ordination of women to the priesthood, should not continue after an agreed date.

In practice, although well intentioned, it has not worked well and has been seriously discriminatory against women. It has also had a schismatic effect within the structure of the Church. We suggest, therefore, that the year 2002 would be a reasonable date at which to bring the Act to a close — a decade after the decision to ordain women as priests.

In the intervening years, some 2,000 women have been ordained priest, many contributing significantly to the work of the Church. They can scarcely continue to be treated as a passing innovation or experiment which needs to be regarded with caution. For them, and for the good of the Church as a whole, we believe that a reversion to our normal episcopal structures is necessary and would be an essential healing process.

We suggest that, at the same time, the Provincial Episcopal Visitors, commonly known as "flying bishops", should cease to have a supra-diocesan role. In our view they should be reincorporated into the normal diocesan system as assistant bishops, so restoring a proper primacy of role and authority to diocesan bishops, as has hitherto been the Catholic practice and tradition of the Church of England. There seems no adequate reason why those opposed to women priests should continue to receive extraordinary provision over and above many other groups of various views who have nevertheless felt able to accept the existing structures.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
General Secretary,
Modern Churchpeople's Union,
MONICA FURLONG,
MCU Office,
25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP.
March 3.

'Millennium Moment'

From Prebendary Richard Askew

Sir, It is indeed sad that the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Hume are finding it difficult to take part in the "Millennium Moment" ceremony that will lead us into the year 2000 (report, February 25).

Do the Archbishop and the Cardinal represent a tiny section of the population, stubborn adherents to a set of outmoded beliefs? Or is it rather that the media moguls in charge of national millennium events are themselves living in a super-sophisticated cul-de-sac, out of touch with mainstream opinion?

Surely it is not too much to ask that the dawn of the new millennium — a landmark deriving totally from the birth of Christ — should be heralded with some minutes of prayer? And surely the vast majority of the population would feel that this was right?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ASKEW
(Millennium Officer),
Bath and Wells Diocese,
13 Kingston Buildings, Bath BA1 1LT.
February 26.

The Poles at Cassino

From Mr Richard Janczyński

Sir, The Allied Army which fought at Monte Cassino consisted of many nationalities. Each played its part over the four attempts that it took to capture the monastery. The Indian infantry (report, February 24) came very close to reaching the summit. Their task was a tall order. They had to scale some of the steeper slopes whilst the German forces shot down at them from the ruins.

However, the monastery was finally taken by the 2nd Polish Corps, under the command of General W. Anders, on May 18, 1944.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JANCZYNSKI,
16 Avery Avenue,
Downley, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP11 5UE.
r.janczynski@nationwideisp.net
February 24.

Regional accents

From Mr Peter Whyer

Sir, I am sad that, when commenting on regional accents, Beryl Bainbridge included that of Liverpool (report, "Scouse novelist derides 'stupid' regional accents", later editions, March 3). It is a joy to hear such clear diction in the Liverpool pronunciation even though it carries with it a pleasant lilt.

Compare that with the crude and unpleasant estuary English that we now often have to suffer on TV and radio, especially from announcers who tell us that a particular programme will be on in "harf a nower".

Yours faithfully,
P. WHYER,
Oakdale,
Wooburn Town, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP10 0PW.
p.j.w@btinternet.com
March 3.

'Blackmailing' employees at work

From Mr Ian A. Page

Sir, Many employers will recognise the unfair effect of the employment laws detailed in today's letter from Mr Anthony Rose. I have personally defended a number of such cases successfully. But the time and expense involved means our business suffers and we thereby have less resources available to employ more staff.

I recently defended a case brought originally in 1997, but delayed until this year, by a legal trainee who told me at the outset he would take up as much time as possible of my senior staff and it would be better for me to settle.

I declined, and when the matter came before the tribunal the dismissed employee accused his manager of drunkenness, theft, lying, racial abuse and assault. He produced no supporting evidence and the tribunal dismissed his claim. I, together with members of my staff, had to appear at hearings on six separate days spread over two years to achieve this result.

Mr Rose asks how a company can protect itself in such circumstances. The answer is that they must defend themselves, irrespective of cost. Otherwise they invite blackmail.

Yours faithfully,
IAN A. PAGE
(Chairman),
CTL Components plc,
Falcon House,
19 Deer Park Road, SW19 3UX.
February 23.

From Mr John Wilson

Sir, There is an easy answer to Mr Rose's question. Sack the lawyers.

Employment tribunals were introduced because it was thought that the courts and legal procedures were not appropriate for employment disputes, especially bearing in mind that we lawyers have a vested interest in turning every molehill into a mountain. They were supposed to be straightforward and unlegalistic, and any spoilsport who hired a lawyer would be penalised by the prospect of having to pay his own legal fees — win, lose or draw.

The touching naivety of this notion failed completely to address the skill with which we lawyers defend our patch. Are we really going to advise people to do it themselves? Do butchers advocate vegetarianism?

In my experience most employers are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves in these tribunals, and most arguments would be quite straightforward if it wasn't for the lawyers. It is the lawyers who need to be kept out of tribunals, not complainants.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILSON
(Solicitor), AdviceNet,
86 Town Street,
Farsley, Leeds LS28 5LD.
jw@wilsonsolicitors.demon.co.uk
February 23.

From Mr J. C. Overton

Sir, The answer to Mr Rose's question: prospective employers should contact all past employers to ascertain the reason for leaving. The previous "blackmailing" would soon come to light.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. OVERTON,
Brookside Cottage,
Hatchet Lane, Winkfield
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2EE.
February 23.

From Mr M. A. Lassman

Sir, One cannot help wondering if the same solicitor acted for the "blackmailing" employee in all three cases!

Yours sincerely,
M. A. LASSMAN,
99 Woodlands, NW11 9QT.
February 23.

Treating psychopaths

From Dr Andrew Wilski

Sir, The Home Secretary's proposals for dealing with psychopaths (letters, February 22) should be welcomed. I regard the short-term sentences dispensed under the present legislation as dangerously ineffective.

People diagnosed as possessed of psychopathic personality disorder would, as a rule, have shown a repetitive pattern of cruel, sadistic and brutally violent behaviour which would have caused much suffering to people who came into contact with them. In their conduct, they are pitiless, ruthless and without remorse. According to psychiatric definition, they are regarded as responsible for their acts.

On the other hand, it is generally recognised that psychopaths cannot be successfully "treated" in the context of psychiatric systems — ie, that on the whole they do not significantly or lastingly change as a result of psychiatric procedures, while causing turmoil in psychiatric wards. Their sense of responsibility may be further diminished by contacts with psychiatry, a branch of medicine which inevitably carries with it the notion of "illness" and implies an absolution from responsibility.

I propose that there should be a "third way", between hospital and prison, for attending to psychopaths before they commit even more serious crimes: new humane reformatories that would aim at modifying the malformed personalities of psychopaths through useful work, appropriate education, benevolent moral guidance and a form of friendly but non-indulgent attitudes on the part of the staff.

The emphasis would not be on punishment (as in prison) or "illness" and "treatment" (as in hospital) but on inducing a sense of responsibility, on growing up, and on a general change of attitude towards other people and social arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WILSKI
(Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Director, Mental Health Services),
Pembury Hospital,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4QJ.
February 23.

Conflict in the Horn

From the Ambassador of Ethiopia

Sir, Your recent reports on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea (February 9, 10, 16, 18 and 19) have been accurate and fair. I would, however, like to take issue with a couple of points in your editorial, "War in the Horn" (February 19).

To suggest that a significant factor in Ethiopia's motivation for war is "its underlying fear [of] denial of access to the Red Sea" is to misunderstand the economic relationship between Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Red Sea ports.

Ethiopia's use of Eritrea's ports is of much greater economic importance to Eritrea than to Ethiopia. Eritrea has received a crucial part of its annual income from Ethiopia. Since Eritrea's reckless invasion of Ethiopia last May, Ethiopia has transferred its business to the neighbouring port of Djibouti, which has three times the capacity of Assab in Eritrea and is much more efficient.

There is little doubt that in the longer term, when normal neighbourly relations are restored, it will be in the interest of both our countries — but particularly of Eritrea, as Ethiopia is virtually its only customer — to restore also the function of the Red Sea ports as the channel of choice for Ethiopian exports and imports.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that Ethiopia did not unilaterally break the moratorium on air attacks. On June 5 Eritrean warplanes bombed Adigrat, narrowly missing a fuel depot. The next day the scale of their attack at Badme imposed this current outbreak of war on the Ethiopian forces, whose restraint in the face of Eritrean provocation until that point had been remarked in UN Security Council Resolution 1226 (1999).

Yours sincerely,
BEYENE NEGEWO,
Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,
17 Princes Gate, SW7 1PZ.
February 19.

Alleviating poverty

From the Reverend Hugh Hanley

Sir, Ben Wood (letter, February 25) says he would have much more sympathy for Cardinal Basil Hume's pleas for those living in absolute poverty if his Church "allowed its flock the contraceptive means" towards halving the world's population.

While some poor countries have high populations, others suffer from lack of people. It is the densely populated Western world that uses up its unfair share of the planet's resources.

As for artificial contraception, while many couples testify to its benefits, I believe the jury is still out on whether its general use is of overall benefit to the medical and moral wellbeing of society.

The consequent over-sexualisation of our culture can make us even more selfish and less willing to help the poor of the world.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH HANLEY,
St Joseph's, Tilston Road,
Malpas, Cheshire SY14 7DD.
February 27.

Catholics and charity

From the Principal of St Benedict's College, Colchester

Sir, Catholic schools have long had grave misgivings about Red Nose Day (report, March 2). Many Catholics are concerned over the possible use of Comic Relief funds for morally dubious family-planning projects.

Another reason why Red Nose Day is often not encouraged in Catholic schools is that the Friday chosen always falls in Lent. Catholic schools generally use the penitential period of Lent as a time of charity fundraising for disadvantaged people in the poorest countries of the world.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WHELAN,
Principal,
St Benedict's College,
Norman Way, Colchester,
Essex CO3 3US.
March 2.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Partnership a key to rail success

From the Director General of the Association of Train Operating Companies

Sir, Last week's rail summit in London may have produced adverse comment (article, "Fat control-freaks", February 26; see also leading article, same day), but it also had some very constructive outcomes.

The Government has put rail at the top of its priorities, and its shared commitment with the industry to make the railways work better must help to ensure ultimate success.

The new head of the Strategic Rail Authority, Sir Alastair Morton, exhibited a welcome realism and determination to mobilise the industry to deliver the Government's (and the public's) demands.

Encouraging progress has been made towards implementing the ten-point plan hammered out between the industry and the Deputy Prime Minister at the first summit in November: a national punctuality task force has undertaken a detailed analysis of the causes of delays; hundreds of new drivers have been trained and are in training; a new training system is being set up to tackle the shortage of experienced operations and timetable planners; reliability action groups have been set up to reduce the 20 per cent of delays caused by mechanical breakdowns; new trains are being delivered in increasing numbers; and a completely new timetable planning process has been devised.

As the process of restoring railway performance continues, the historic decline in rail usage has been reversed: subsidies to the rail industry are declining while investment in the rail infrastructure is at a 20-year high. Fares are going down in real terms. Passenger numbers have grown by 7 per cent per annum for the past two years.

Long-term investment is the key to coping with this growth and we welcome the Government's commitment to working in partnership with the industry to deliver it.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GORDON,
Director General,
Association of Train Operating Companies,
3rd Floor,
40 Bernard Street, WC1N 1BY.
March 1.

Deregulating radio

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Commercial Radio Companies Association

Sir, I enjoyed Peter Barnard's deregulatory broadside, "Looking for a licence to thrill" (article, Vision, February 27). His conclusion that all radio should be less regulated sounds ideal, but I should point out that this association has never argued that BBC Radio should be regulated by the Radio Authority.

The self-regulating, publicly-funded BBC has five national and 40-odd local stations cross-promoting themselves fit to bust with two national television stations all under single ownership.

The independently regulated commercial radio sector has three national and about 215 local stations of which a single owner cannot own more than 15 per cent of potential audience.

To balance that situation out requires less ownership regulation of the latter and, ideally, independent regulation of the former.

With best wishes.
Yours sincerely,
PAUL BROWN,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Commercial Radio Companies Association,
77 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1V 7AD.
March 1.

Brit-spotting

From Mrs Rosemary Fernández

Sir, Some years ago my late stepfather lost his way on a pre-dinner stroll in Yugoslavia. Thinking he would be more easily understood, he asked a young fellow in French for directions back to his hotel.

The reply came also in French, but with a question "and how far from Hull do you live?" (letters, January 29-March 1).

Absolutely spot on, my stepfather was born in Hull and had spent his early years there.

Yours,
ROSEMARY FERNANDEZ,
45 Cumberlands,
Kenley, Surrey CR8 5DX.
March 1.

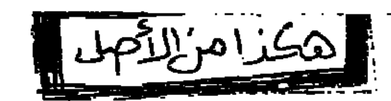
From Miss Jane Robinson

Sir, I came across this extract from *Hints to Lady Travellers* by Lillias Campbell Davidson the other day, which might be of some comfort:

> The days are, happily, now long past when the cherished tradition of the Englishwoman, that one's oldest and worst garments possessed the most suitable characteristics for wear in travelling, excited the derision of foreign nations, and made the British female abroad an object of terror and avoidance to all beholders,

And the date? 1889.

Yours faithfully,
JANE ROBINSON,
Dragon Cottage,
Dragon Tail, Haddenham,
Buckinghamshire HP17 8AR.
March 1.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: His Excellency Baron William Oswald Bentinck van Schoonheten was received in audience by The Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letter of Credence as Ambassador of The Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Baron Gerhard CM van Pallandt (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr Ronald Brouwer (Minister Plenipotentiary, Economic Affairs), Captain Willem T. Lansink (Defence, Naval and Air Attaché), Colonel Hubertus J. Bonsel (Military Attaché), Jonkheer Peter W.A. Bas Backer (Political Counselor and Consul General), Miss Hilde R. Jansen (Counsellor, Press and Cultural Affairs), Miss Maria J. Boomkamp (1st Secretary, Customs) and Mr Timo S. Koster (1st Secretary, Economic Affairs).

Baroness Bentinck van Schoonheten was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Honourable Mr Justice Gillen was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Northern Ireland when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

His Excellency Choi Dong-Jin was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador of Korea to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Choi was also received by The Queen.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP, (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, Freeman and Livery Member of the Court of Assistants, this evening attended The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers' Livery Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, London EC4.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 3: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Soil Association, this afternoon hosted a reception for the association.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Duke of York this morning visited the British Consulate-General and British Council, and was received by Mr Fred Winter, Consul-General.

Later, His Royal Highness opened the "Designing Tomorrow" exhibition at the British Consulate-General.

Afterwards, The Duke of York opened the Castrol Vietnam Limited New Head Office in District 1.

Later, His Royal Highness visited the Saigon Children's Charity in Thang Long School.

This afternoon The Duke of York lunched with the Ho Chi Minh Chapter of the British Business Group in Vietnam.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness opened the Delta Juice Factory, *Long An Province.*

Later, His Royal Highness opened the BP Petco "Street Vision" Exhibition at the Metropolitan Building, District 1.

This evening His Royal Highness attended a dinner given by the Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh People's Committee, Mr Vo Viet *Thanh.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended a meeting of the English-Speaking Union in Palm Beach, Florida, United States of America.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Princess Royal this *morning* visited Oracle Corporation UK's Headquarters at Oracle Parkway, Thames Valley Park, Reading, Berkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, today visited Reading and Central Berkshire Carers Centre "Support for Rural Carers" event at Theale Medical Centre, Englefield Road, and The Kirby Room, St Luke's Church, Englefield Road, Theale, Berkshire.

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened Bradbury House, *Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy* Centre Limited's new Centre at 23a August End, Stock Gardens, Reading, Berkshire.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, afterwards attended a Reception for Wessex Walks Volunteers at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, RSAS AgeCare, this evening attended the Fourth Annual Jacqueline du Pre Charity Concert, Wigmore Hall, London W1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, London SE1, and meet local children attending a theatre workshop at 10.10; will visit the Lyceum Theatre, 21 Wellington Street, London WC2, at 10.40; will visit the Almeida Theatre, Islington, at 11.25 and will see rehearsals of *Spear* and David Hare's *Plenty*; accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Angels & Berman, 40 Camden Street, London NW1, at 12.15 and *will attend a luncheon hosted by* the Society of London Theatre at The Ivy restaurant, West Street, London WC1 at 1.00. The Queen will visit Rada, 18 Chenies Street, London WC1, to see classes in session at 2.45; and, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a performance of *Oklahoma* at the Lyceum Theatre, 21 Wellington Street, London WC2E, at 7.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Royal National Theatre, South Banks, SE1, to see the technical refurbishment of the Cottesloe Theatre at 10.10; will attend a rehearsal for *Chicago* at the Adelphi Theatre, The Strand, London WC2, at 10.50; will visit the Royal Court Youth Theatre at the Duke of York's Theatre, West Street, St Martin's Lane, London WC2, at 11.30; and will visit Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, Southampton Row, London WC1, to see design and theatre training courses at 2.45.

The Prince of Wales will visit Brickfields Pond, Rhyl, North Wales, at 11.00; will visit Cefndy Enterprises Healthcare at 11.50; will visit Penbedir Farm, near Mold at 12.50 and visit Ruthin Gaol at 2.50.

The Princess Royal, president, *Riding for the Disabled Association,* will attend the council meeting at Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, Cheapside, London EC2, at 10.55. Later, as patron, the Basic Skills Agency, she will attend a residential meeting at Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, at 6.30.

Royal Warrant Holders

The following have been elected officers of the Royal Warrant Holders Association for the ensuing year:
President, Mr Roger Mitchell, managing director, Holland & Holland; Vice-President, Mr Michael Skinner, chairman, J. Dege & Sons; Hon Treasurer, Sir Richard George, chairman and managing director, Weetabix.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



FRAMED through a gallery ladder, two versions of the *Finding of Moses* hang side by side in an exhibition on the poetic Italian painter Orazio Gentileschi (1563-1639), which opened at the National Gallery yesterday, writes Dalya Alberge.

The show coincides with a discovery by a French novelist about the man who raped the artist's daughter, Artemisia — one of the first women artists in history.

A well-documented trial took place in 1612 after she was attacked by Agostino Tassi, an artist-friend of her father's at the Papal court. After five years' research, Alexandra Lapierre has overturned the long-held assumption that he was never convicted. She discovered a piece of paper which proves that he was in fact sentenced to five years' exile from Rome.

A novel based on her research, *Artemisia*, is to be published next year by Chatto and Windus. She said yesterday: "I'd been researching her in many archives, including the State Archives of Rome." Somehow a slip of paper had become separated from folders on the trial, she said: "The paper had been mislaid among other papers of the time. You should have heard my scream when I found it in a silent room."

Artemisia, she said, underwent an extraordinary battle, particularly since Tassi was a major artist of his day: "At the time, he was doing the palace of the Pope, so to convict him was very difficult. For nine months of the trial, she was tortured in front of him. They put ropes around her hands, which they tightened to make her talk. She suffered the torture to prove to the judges that she was telling the truth."

Gabriele Finaldi, a curator at the National Gallery, described the discovery as a significant development.

The exhibition on Gentileschi, who painted some of his finest works as Court Painter to Charles I, runs at the National Gallery until May 23.

Mr and Mrs Martin Seymour-Smith

A memorial service to celebrate the lives of Janet Seymour-Smith (née de Glanville) and Martin Seymour-Smith will be held at St James's, Piccadilly, on Sunday, April 11, at 2.30.

Alistair Cumming

A celebration of the life of Alistair Cumming, British Airways Chief Operating Officer and Director of Engineering, who died in December, will be held at Technical Block A, Hatton Cross, Heathrow Airport on March 26 at 11.00am. Light refreshments will be held afterwards. For further information, please write or fax to Ron Scobling, Head of Communication Services, Waterside (HCB3), PO Box 365, Harmondsworth, UB7 0GB. fax 0181 738 9839.

Birthdays today

Sir David Barnes, chief executive, Zeneca Group, 63; Professor Sir Alan Battersby, FRS, Professor of Organic Chemistry, 74; Sir Arthur Bryan, former Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 76; Mr Nicholas Coleridge, journalist, 42; Mr Kenny Dalglish, football manager, 48; Mr Graham Dowling, cricketer, 62; Miss Sarah Evans, Headmistress, King Edward VI High School for Girls, 46; Mr Harvey Goldsmith, impresario, 53; Mr Jeff Grayshon, rugby league player, 50; Mr Bernard Haitink, KBE, conductor, 70; Mr John Hunt, former Headmaster, Roedean School, 67; Mr Howard Hughes, former World Managing Partner, Price Waterhouse, 61; Lord Johnston of Rockport, 84; Mr Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist, 53; Mr Stuart Mawson, otolaryngologist, 81; Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 76; Ms Jane Reynolds, chief executive, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 46; Mr Alan Sillitoe, writer, 71; Mr Peter Skellern, composer and singer, 52; Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, Associated British Ports Holdings, 59.

Memorial service

The Rev Lord Soper

The Lord Chancellor was represented by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Rev Lord Soper held yesterday in Westminster Abbey. The Dean of Westminster officiated, assisted by the Rev Dominic Fenton, Precentor.

The Rev David Cruise, Superintendent Minister of the West London Mission, led the prayers. Miss Catherine Jenkins, granddaughter, and Lady Williams of *Crosby read the lessons. Mr Colin* Welland and Mr Christopher Kent gave readings. Mr Tony Benn, MP, read an extract from *The Tribune*, January 25, 1974. The Rev Dr Colin Morris preached the sermon.

The Rev Professor Peter Stephens, President of the Methodist Conference, paid tribute. Canon Robert Wright, Chaplain to the Speaker, Canon Anthony Harvey, Sub-Dean, Canon David Hunt, Canon Steward, and Canon Charles McGowan, representing the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, were robed and seated in the Sacrarium.

The Prime Minister was represented by Lord Carter. The Speaker, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and the High Bailiff of Westminster Abbey attended. Among others present were:

The Hon Mrs Ann Horn and the Hon Mrs Bridget Kemmis (daughters), Mr and the Hon Mrs Terence Blacker and Mr and the Hon Mrs Alan Jenkins (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr and Mrs David Charleston, Mr Patrick Kemmis, Miss Melissa Horn, Mr Andrew Horn, Mr Xan Blacker, Miss Alice Blacker, Mr Oliver Jenkins and Dr Nigel Horn (grandchildren), Miss Jessica Charleston and Gaura Horn (great grandchildren).

Mr and Mrs Joe Dean (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Sylvia Douglas-Withers (sister-in-law), Mrs Nora Miller, Mr John Kaine, Mrs Diana Darke, Mr Graham Menzies-Kitchin, Mrs Clare Menzies-Kitchin, Mrs R Horn, Mrs Sally Freedman, Mr and Mrs Martin Lawrence, Mr and Mrs Andrew Lawrence, Miss Susan Fowler, Mr and Mrs Michael Essex, Mr David Sim, Mr and Mrs Rory O'Neill, Mr Christopher Dean.

Mr and Mrs Timothy Dean, Mr and Mrs Piers Dibben, Miss Susannah Dibben, Mr Stephen Lawrence, General Sir Cecil and Lady Blacker, Mr and Mrs Philip Blacker, Mrs C Kem, Mrs Lena Ommas, Mrs Sally de la Pana, Miss Poppy O'Shaughnessy, Mrs Dorothy Fielding, Mr Tom Holbrook, Miss Helena Lyons, Miss Joanna Hornsby.

The Earl of Longford, Viscount Simon, the Right Rev Lord Runcie, the Right Rev Dr R D Say, Lord Acton, Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, the Rev Lord Beaumont of Whitley, Lord Blease, Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, Lord Brougham and Vaux, Lord Bruce of Donington, Baroness Carnegy of Lour, Lord Carter, Field Marshal Lord Carver, Baroness Castle of Blackburn, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, Lord Graham of Edmonton, Lord Hardy of Wath, Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, Lord Hooson, QC, Lord Hughes.

Baroness Jeger, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Lord Judd, Lord Laming, Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Baroness Mallalieu, QC, Lord Milner of Leeds, Lord Molloy, Lord and Lady Murray of Epping Forest, Lord Orme, Lord Sefton of Garston, Baroness Serota, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, *Lord St John of Fawsley, Lord Strabolgi,* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Lord Varley, Lord Weatherill, Lady Wilson of Rievaulx, Mr Robert Sheldon, MP, Sir Robert and Lady Clarke, Sir Michael Checkland (NCH Action for Children) and Lady Checkland, Sir Geoffrey de Ballaigue.

Mrs Margaret Parker (Vice-President of the Methodist Conference) with the Rev Tim Boocock, the Rev Stuart Burgess, the Rev Dr Nigel and Mrs Collinson, Miss Megan Cruise, Mrs David Cruise, the Rev Peter Graves, the Rev Dr Kenneth and Mrs Greet, the Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths, the Rev Dr Stuart Jordan, Mrs Colin Morris, the Rev John Taylor, the Rev Martin Tullet, Dr Pauline Webb, the Rev Neil Whitehouse and other members of the conference.

Miss Hilary Armstrong, MP, Mr Stuart Bell, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr Andrew Faulds, Mr Michael Foster, Mr Harry Greenway, Mr Kevin McNamara, MP, Miss Rachel Squire, MP, Mr Don Touhig, MP, Mr E Anderson, Mr Philip Bagwell, the Rev Dr P Barnett, Miss Elizabeth Bell, Mr Derek Bibb, Mrs A Bibb, Miss A Bottoms, Mr Brian Bowcock.

The Rev Douglas Brown, Miss Kay Calton, Mr David Carr, Miss Geraldine Crewes, Mr F R Crewes, Mr and Mrs R J Dawe, Mr Peter Dawe, Mr Roger Deakin, Dr and Mrs D C P Donovan, Mr George Dubock, the Rev Brian and Mrs Duckworth, Mr and Mrs E R Edwards, Mr and Mr Alex Ekumah, Miss Valerie Flessati, the Rev Paul Flowers, Mr L B Forster, His Honour John and Mrs Hicks, the Rev Paul Hulme, Dr and Mrs Mario Impallomeni, Mr Bruce Kent, Mr Ian Klek, Mr John Lampard.

Mr and Mrs M Ludlow, the Rev W E and Mrs Mantle, Mr K Marjurum, Miss Helen Martyn, Mr Norman Meadows, Mrs Jean Meadows, Mr and Mrs Denys Orchard, Mrs Muriel Pavlow-Farr, Mr P J Pounds, Miss Megan Pugh, Mr J O Roper, Mr Henry Rutland, Mr G T Slater, the Rev David Smith, Miss V C Spencer, the Rev John Stacey, Miss B E Tredinnick, Miss Oliver Underwood, Miss M L Waldock, Mr and Mrs Derek Walker, Mr Ian Walters.

The Rev Derek White, Mr Ian Yates and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union, the *Methodist Recorder*, the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, the Christian Socialist Movement, the International Friendship League, the Women's Network of the Methodist Church, the Methodist Sacramental Fellowship, the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Movement, Shelter.

The Muscular Dystrophy Group, Friends of Iran Aid, Women's Link, the British Red Cross, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, England, the Soper Debating Society, Unison, the Haberdashers' Company, Labour Action for Peace, the Methodist Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association, Wesley House, Haberdashers' Aske Hatcham College, the East Anglia District and Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit, Help the Aged, the Kairos in Soho League, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and many other friends and former colleagues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry the Navigator, *Portuguese patron of voyages of* discovery, Porto, 1394; Antonio Vivaldi, composer, Venice, 1673; Giovanni Schiaparelli, astronomer, Savigliano, Italy, 1835; Jim Clark, world champion racing driver, Berwickshire, 1936.

DEATHS: Saladin, Sultan of Egypt 1175-73, Damascus, 1193; William Willett, originator of daylight saving, Chislehurst, Kent, 1915; Sir Charles Sherrington, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1932, Eastbourne, 1952; William Carlos Williams, physician and poet, Rutherford, New Jersey, 1963.

King Henry VI was deposed by Edward Duke of York (King Edward IV), 1461, and restored October, 1470.

The first meeting of Congress was held in New York, 1789.

The RNLI was founded, 1824.

The Forth Bridge was opened, 1890.

The first North Sea gas was piped ashore off the Durham coast, 1967.

Buckingham Palace lunch

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh gave a lunch party at Buckingham Palace yesterday. The guests were:

Mrs Lindsay Driscoll (solicitor), Dame Diana Rigg (actress), Professor Sir David Davies, FRS, (chief scientific adviser, Ministry of Defence), Mr Richard Dorment (art critic, *The Daily Telegraph*), Mr Jeff Hamblin (chief executive, British Tourist Authority), Sir Donald Irvine (president, General Medical Council), Mr Charles Miller Smith (chief executive, ICI), and Air Marshal Sir Peter Squire (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (designate) Strike Command).

Luncheons

Insurance Institute of London
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Gavyn Arthur, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Insurance Institute of London held yesterday at the Mansion House. Ms Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was the principal speaker, and Mr Dieter Losse, president of the institute, was in the chair.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr Donald Anderson, Chairman of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday at the House of Commons by the executive committee in honour of Commonwealth Parliamentarians at*tending the* 1999 *Parliamentary* Seminar at Westminster.

Service dinner

Cambridge University Air Squadron
The Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and the Vice-Chancellor of *Cambridge University* attended the annual dinner of Cambridge University Air Squadron held last night in Duxford. Air Marshal C.C.C. Coville, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, was the principal guest. Squadron Leader D.P. Calvert, Squadron Commander, presided.

Dinners

BMA
The Secretary of State for Health was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Chief Officers of the British Medical Association at BMA House last night.

Cornhill Club
Sir David Rowland, Deputy Chairman of the National Westminster Bank, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Cornhill Club held last night at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Phil Pickard, deputy chairman of the club, presided. *Sir Brian Pitman, president,* attended.

University news

Leeds
Richard Williams, BSc (Eng), PhD (Imperial College, London), has been appointed to a Chair of Mineral Process Engineering in the Department of Mining and Mineral Engineering, andDirector of the new Centre for Particle and Colloid Engineering. Professor Williams was previously Professor of Mineral Engineering at the University of Exeter, Camborne School of Mines.

Neil Meredith, BDS, MSc, PhD (London), PhD (Gothenburg), has been appointed to a Chair of Biomaterials in Relation to Restorative Dentistry in the Leeds Dental Institute. He was previously a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Bristol.

John Altringham, BSc, PhD (St Andrews,) has been appointed to a Chair of Biomechanics in the School of Biology. He was previously a Reader in Comparative Physiology in the School of Biology.

Legal appointments

Mr John Joseph Molloy has been appointed a full-time Immigration Adjudicator from March 29 and Mrs Judith Amanda Jane Coomber Gleeson from April 19. They will sit in Greater London.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.R.G. Arthur and *Miss S. Hamlin*
The engagement is announced between David, son of His Honour John Arthur and the late Mrs Joan Arthur, of Caldy, Wirral, and Srirat, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hamlin, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr A.M. Ashford and Miss J. Bryan
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Ashford, of Itchenor, West Sussex, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Bryan, of Eltham, London.

Mr J.T. Charlton and Dr J. Piercy
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Charlton, of Potten End, Hertfordshire, and Joanna, daughter of the late Mr Ronald Piercy and of Mrs Piercy, of Warwick.

Mr S.H. Moseley and Miss G.M.A. Sullivan
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Sir George Moseley and the late Lady Moseley, and Georgina, daughter of the late Major Patrick Sullivan and of Mrs Sullivan, of Barford St Michael, Oxfordshire.

Mr B.A.C. Ward and Miss S.A. Sinclair
The engagement is announced between Bruce, second son of Mr and Mrs Ian Ward, of Adisham, Kent, and Stephanie, younger daughter of Mr Alan Sinclair and Mrs Gayle Sinclair, both of Edinburgh.

Marriage

Mr A.M. Bark and Ms E.A. Lamont
The marriage took place at a family service at St Meddan's Church, Troon, Ayrshire, on Saturday, February 27, 1999, between Adrian Bark and Elizabeth Lamont, née Locke.

Church news

Canon Richard Blackburn, Vicar, Mosborough (Sheffield): to be the next Archdeacon of Sheffield (same diocese).

Appointments
The Rev Peter Garner, Rector, Farnham w. Scotton and Staveley and Copgrove and Arkendale (Ripon): to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Colin Horseman, Priest-in-Charge, Ducklington, and Oxford Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism (Oxford): to be Priest-in-Charge, Great Horkesley (Chelmsford).
The Rev David Horsfall, Vicar, Swadlincote (Derby): has been appointed also Rural Dean of Repton (same diocese).
The Rev Michael Langan, Priest-in-Charge, South Woodham Ferrers (Chelmsford): to be Rector, Overstrand, Northrepps, Sidestrand and Trimingham (Norwich).
The Rev Edmund Lee, Assistant Curate, *Malden St James* (Southwark): to be Team Vicar, Mortlake w. East Sheen (same diocese).
The Rev John Mann, NSM, Springfield All Saints (Chelmsford): has been appointed also Rural Dean of Chelmsford North (same diocese).
The Rev Martin Miller, Assistant Curate, Leamington Priors St Paul (Coventry): to be Assistant Curate, Bermondsey St Anne (Southwark).
The Rev Michael Newbon, Assistant Curate, Bedford St John and St Leonard (St Albans): to be Incumbent, Luton St Francis (same diocese).
The Rev Stephen Nuth, Curate, Wadhurst, and Stonegate (Chichester): to be Rector, Marks Tey w. Aldham and Little Tey (Chelmsford).
The Rev Tony Shepherd, Vicar, High Harrogate St Peter (Ripon): to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Nigel Stimpson, Curate, Torrisholme the Ascension w. Westgate St Martin of Tours (Blackburn): to be Priest-in-charge, Ravensthorpe St Saviour and Thornhill Lees Holy Innocents (Wakefield).

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Some people get caught in their sins straight away, even before the time of judgement. But other people's sins don't show up until later. It is the same with good deeds. Some are easily seen, but none of them can be hidden. 1 Timothy 5.24-25 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BABER-DAY - On Saturday 27th February 1999 at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to Alison and Darren, a daughter, Lydia Dora Eloise.

BARRY - On Wednesday February 24th to Susan (née Plumley) and James, a daughter, Henrietta.

DARCHEN-RITEAU - On Friday 26th February 1999 at The Portland Hospital, Nathalie and Bertrand are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Chloe.

DIXON - On February 27th to Dulcie (née Fairhurst) and Jonathan, a son, Mark Robert.

FITCH KEMP - On February 24th at St Paul's, Cheltenham to Tracy and Mark, a son, Ralph Edward William, a brother for Emma and Fiona.

HALE - On March 1st, in Bordeaux, to Vitaline and Timothy, a daughter, Tanya Virginia, a sister for Stéphane and William.

HERRING - On March 1st 1999, to Peter and Carola (née Brock), a daughter, Philippa Rebecca.

JACK - On 1st March at St Mary's, Paddington, to Elizabeth (née Shorten) and Roderick, a son, Rory William, a brother for Patrick and Isobel.

KERR - On February 20th to Amanda and Laurie, a daughter Lucy Charlotte Christina, a sister for Oliver.

MacLELLAN - On 1st March 1999, to Dominique (née Martens) and David, a son, Ludovic Peter, a brother for Samuel.

MELLOR - On 26th February to Tracey and Jon, a son, Joseph Michael Peter, a brother to Thomas.

PAULSON - On February 25th in Amstelveen, the Netherlands to Joëlle (née Cossette) and David, a daughter, Emmanuelle Hannah, a sister for William and Lily.

PRESTON - On 26th February 1999 to Samantha (née Musgrave) and Rupert, a beautiful daughter, India-Rose Matilda.

ROBINSON - On 2nd March 1999 to Anne (née Fleming) and Paul, twin daughters Hannah Rose and Lucy Grace, sisters for James.

SABHARWAL - On February 27th at The Portland Hospital to Gabrielle and Sunil, a daughter, Izabelle, a sister for Nicholas.

SELLORS - On 17th February at St Thomas' Hospital to Clare (née Peacock) and Jonathan, a son, Jack Alexander Holmes, a brother for Pollyanna.

DEATHS

ATTER - Betty (Frances Lillian, née Turner, formerly Thompson), at Caterham on 2nd March 1999 aged 84 years. Widow of Douglas Atter and Robert Thompson. Beloved mother of Stewart, Margaret and Susan and loving grandmother. Cremation service at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Crawley on Monday 8th March at 4.00pm. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, may be sent to SSAFA c/o WA Truelove and Son, 187 Croydon Road, Caterham CR3 6PH. Telephone 01883 345345.

BARNES - Harry of Distington, Cumbria, but rooted in Southampton, on Sunday 28th February. Much loved husband and best friend of Barbara. With thanks to all the staff of Ullswater One, West Cumberland Hospital. Donations in his memory to the RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire for work at Leighton Moss, Silverdale.

BROWN - Sebastian Hubert, Composer passed away February 28th. Funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium, Tuesday March 9th, 3.15pm. Flowers to Serenity Undertaker, tel 01323 736446 or donations to PRS Members Fund, 29/33 Berners Street, London W1P 4AA.

BRUCE - Merlin, Commander OBE, RN (ret'd) aged 89 years, in Oxford on February 27th after a short illness. Thanksgiving service in Oxford to be arranged.

CASTLE - Joan, aged 84, dearly loved mother of Kenyon and Simon, died peacefully on 1st March 1999 at St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley. Cremation 3.15 pm, 9th March, at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations to the Red Cross would be greatly appreciated.

CLARK - Ernest Joseph Redvers (Nobby), formerly of Betchworth and Ashtead, Surrey. On 1st March 1999, peacefully in his 98th year. Loved by his late wife Isobel and will be sadly missed by his son and daughter, their families and his many friends. Funeral Service will take place on Monday 15th March at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired for the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists may be sent to Sherlock and Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2ES. 01306 882288.

GRAHAM - Betty. Peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Loving wife of Stuart Graham, mother of Neil and devoted grandmother of Georgina and Belinda. Funeral will take place at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 11th March 1999 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice, c/o H Copeland & Son, 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5NT. Telephone 0181 650 2295.

GREEN - Noel Kingsley of Twyford, Berkshire peacefully on 2nd March aged 90 at Glebe House Nursing Home, Almondsbury, Bristol. Private service at Westerleigh Crematorium, North Bristol on 9th March at 2.00pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign c/o L & J Gulwell, 1 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2DU.

HAMILTON-RUSSELL - Brigadier The Hon. R.G. *(Dick) Hamilton-Russell,* late 17th/21st Lancers, peacefully on 2nd March 1999 - aged 90. Devoted husband of the late Pamela (née Cayzer) and much loved father of Brian, Richard and Veronica, grandfather and great-grandfather. Private cremation. Funeral Service at Aston Botterell Church, Burwarton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire at 2.00pm on Tuesday 23rd March.

HAMMOND - Reverend *Canon Peter. Born 1921,* Bromley. Died 1st March 1999, Lincoln. Three sons. HMS Sunflower (1941-43). Author, 'Liturgy and Architecture'. Lecturer, Hull Art College. Memorial Service 2.30pm Monday 8th March at Lincoln Cathedral follows private cremation. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Service, 12 Portland Street, Lincoln. 01522 534971.

JONES - On 2nd March after a long illness, Jean Marjorie, aged 89. Beloved wife of the late D. Carroll Jones, much loved mother of Bridget Murray and the late Richard, a devoted grandmother of Susan, Andrew and Fiona. Funeral service at Pinner Parish Church, Church Lane, Pinner on Monday 8th March at 12.15pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to, Friends of Pinner Parish Church or Michael Sobell House c/o Bradley & Jones, 7 Love Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3EE.

KEEN - John (Jack) on 27th February in Dorchester, suddenly after a fall, aged 83. Devoted father of Laurence and Martin and grandfather of James and Timothy. Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's, Melcombe Horsey, Dorset at 1.00pm on Tuesday 9th March followed by committal at Weymouth Crematorium. No flowers, donations to St Andrew's Church, Melcombe Horsey to be sent to Woods (Dorchester) Ltd, 11A Icen Way, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EW. Tel 01305 262666

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

LINDGREN - OBE FCA Frederick William died peacefully on 26th February 1999. Beloved husband of Mary, father of Barbara, Sylvia and David and much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service on Tuesday 9th March at 1.30 pm at Southampton Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations for RAF Association Sussex Down Home or Old Camdenians Club (Holloway School Old Boys) may be sent to F C Hughes Funeral Directors 48 St Johns *Road, Hedge End,* Southampton.

MAURICE - Phyllis, HMI Education 1947 - 1970, died 20th February 1999. Her Chief Inspector of the time said of her work "I do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school". The thanksgiving service will take place at Barrow Parish Church, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk at 2pm on 9th March *followed by the Committal* the the Crematorium, Risby.

NUTTING - The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Bt PC - the funeral will be held at 3pm today 4th March at Holy Trinity Brompton, family and friends welcome. All enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd. 0171 387 6075.

PALMER - Phoebe van Someren died peacefully in her ninetieth year on March 2nd. Much loved wife of the late Lt Colonel George Archdale Palmer, mother of Fenella and Anthea and grandmother of Miles, Sebastian and Hugh. Funeral Tuesday 9th March, 3.00pm, St Mary's Westwell, Oxfordshire.

PHILIPS - Richard Montague, on 25th February 1999, aged 89, while travelling *in the Indian Ocean.* Adored father of Anthony, Christopher, Julie and David. Grandfather of six, great grandfather of four. Funeral at St Peter's, Lodsworth, near Petworth, West Sussex on Wednesday 10th March at midday. Family flowers only please. Any donations to the YMCA, c/o LF Lintott & Son, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DG (01730 813264).

SINCLAIR - Dr. John Alan died peacefully at Dene *Place Nursing Home,* West Horsley 2nd March 1999 aged 90 years. Former GP in Putney and Roehampton. Will be greatly missed. Funeral service at Guildford Crematorium at 11.30am Monday 8th March. No flowers please. Donations to Parkinson Disease Society via Robert Ayling F/D, 25-27 South Road, Guildford, GU2 6NY, telephone: 01483 567333.

SPENCER - Anthony Lucas on Sunday 28th February peacefully after a long illness borne with great courage. Beloved father of Jonathan, dearly loved brother and uncle. Funeral at 2.30 pm on Thursday 11th March at St Thomas the Apostle, Lymington, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to The British Lung Foundation, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JR.

TALBOT - Benjamin Robert Chetwynd suddenly on 28th February at St Marys Hospital Isle of Wight. Private cremation. Service of Remembrance at St Lukes Bembridge on Monday 8th March at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research c/o Weaver Bros. Ltd. Bembridge I.W. 01983 872598.

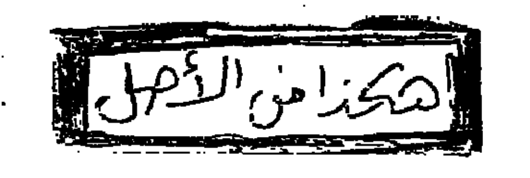
THOMAS-FERRAND - David Lt Commander, R.N. (ret'd), peacefully with fortitude 2nd March 1999, treasured husband of Sylvia, beloved father of Cherry, Rosamund and John. Much loved grandfather. Funeral service 10.30 am Saturday 6th March at St Elidyr's Church, Amroth followed by cremation at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth 11.30 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to King George V Fund For Sailors, c/o Barclays Bank, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 2YA.

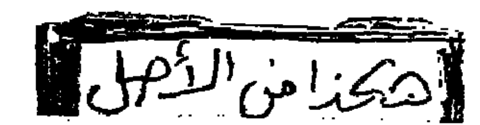
YORATH - Elizabeth Murre Vansittart died peacefully on Saturday 27th February, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Thomas' of Canterbury, East Clandon at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 10th March. Donations to HUG, 41 Bridge Street, Hereford, HR4 9DG.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

MANNERS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Charles John Robert Manners CBE, DL, 10th Duke of Rutland will be held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks on Thursday, the 18th of March 1999 at 11 am. Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets and a car pass if required to The Regimental Adjutant Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ. Applications must be made by Monday 8th March.

BIRTHDAYS





OBITUARIES

SID POWELL

Sid Powell, BEM, Prison Service trade union leader, died on February 6 aged 72. He was born on December 24, 1926.

TURBULENT industrial relations have dominated much of the difficult history of the Prison Service. Sid Powell was influential within the Prison Service trade union movement, especially in the early 1970s, when he chaired the Prison Officers Association.

He was a man of great energy, and this, coupled to his concern for people, made him a natural candidate for trade union work, in which he combined a tenacious pursuit of union objectives with a willingness to compromise on specifics. A strong leader who spoke his mind, he was nevertheless careful to observe the courtesies during negotiations.

Developing an expertise in shift systems, he became a leading negotiatior for the reduction of the prison officer's working week from six to five days. This was a major benefit to his members, many of whom substantially increased their earnings, but the scramble for overtime pay was to bedevil industrial relations for two decades.

In 1972, as national chairman of the trade union, Powell was confronted with widespread prisoner demonstrations, as a prisoners' "union" called for improved conditions. Riots at Gartree and Albany top security prisons followed, causing growing reaction from prison staff. Powell strove to resolve the crisis, demanding improved staffing ratios. Industrial action was threatened, but only limited action took place, and Powell must take credit for that.

In 1982 he was elected Secretary of the Prison Governors' Representative Organisation, then a part of a large Civil Service union, the Society of Civil and Public Servants. Serious conflict between the governors and the union made Powell's task particularly difficult. In 1987, the year after he retired, the governors and senior uniformed staff combined to establish an independent trade union, the Prison Governors Association. Powell played a notable part in preparing for change.

Sidney Thornton Powell was born in Liverpool and educated at Florence Melly school, West Derby. On leaving school he joined the Merchant Navy and sailed with Cunard on Atlantic and Arctic convoys during the war.

In 1947 he married Joan Loughead and applied to become a prison officer, joining at Liverpool's Walton Prison. After a posting to the Borstal at Camp Hill on the Isle of Wight, he returned to Liverpool in 1956 and was quickly elected to the local committee of the Prison Officers Association. As he was a natural leader, it was no surprise when he became chairman. He went on to work in a range of prisons, retiring as a grade 3 governor. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1976.

His interest in the service continued after retirement, and he played a part in developing an organisation for retired governors. He leaves a widow, Joan, and two sons and a daughter.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD

Dusty Springfield, OBE, pop and soul singer, died of cancer on March 2 aged 59. She was born in London on April 16, 1939.

Dusty Springfield was acknowledged on both sides of the Atlantic as the finest female soul singer Britain has produced. Her croakily erotic voice — which belied the shy, vulnerable convent girl who produced it — created a string of hit records during the Sixties' beat boom. After three successful years teamed with her songwriter brother Tom as two-thirds of the folk music-based group the Springfields, she made her 1963 solo debut with *I Only Want to be with You*, sung with jaunty fervour. It was an immediate hit, remaining in the charts for 18 weeks, and it has endured as a pop classic.

More hits followed throughout the Sixties, including *Stay Awhile*, *I Just Don't Know What to do with Myself*, *Losing You*, *In the Middle of Nowhere*, and the poignant *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, which in March 1966 took her to No 1. The following year she was back in the Top Ten, at No 4 with *I Close my Eyes and Count to Ten*.

Dusty Springfield took her enjoyment of her fame right down to the wire in those heady years. As part of the swinging London club scene, she found she had become a model for teenage girls, who slavishly copied her startling beehive blonde hairstyle and dark "panda" eye makeup.

On concert tours she played to packed houses, and adoring fans writhed and screamed when the myopic star appeared hesitantly from backstage to belt out her first number. The Sixties were her apogee. She consistently won the top female singer award, outshining such contemporaries as Lulu, Cilla Black and Sandie Shaw.

But the golden years did not last. Her career, spanning more than four decades, was a turbulent one even by the standards of the pop world. Persistent tabloid interest in her sexual proclivities — largely engendered by her confessing that she was as much attracted to women as to men — drove her to live in Los Angeles for much of the Seventies. There, although she became something of an icon for gays and lesbians, her talent was largely neglected. "I became bored with being a pop singer," she confessed. A rare success was *Son of a Preacher Man*, taken as a single from an otherwise stonily received LP *Dusty in Memphis*.

Despondent, and fighting what was to be a lifelong weight problem, she followed a downward spiral of drug and alcohol abuse. Known for her impulsive candour during interviews, she once said: "I lost nearly all the Seventies in a haze of booze and pills. I couldn't have one or two drinks. I had to get loaded. Vodka and the pills helped ease my shyness. Then I got into cocaine and in seven months I was a brain-scrambled wreck."



Dusty Springfield in 1964: her beehive hairdo was copied by armies of young fans

But she went on to overcome her addictions and then revived her career, courtesy of the Pet Shop Boys, and enjoyed an inspired period in the late Eighties and Nineties. The group began by inviting her to sing on what was to become their worldwide triumph, *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* and went on to write much of her album *Reputation*.

In 1994, however, she discovered that she had breast cancer. She was forced to cancel her singing dates and undergo surgery and months of chemo- and radiotherapy at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London. After the initial shock, her attitude was typically wry: "Why me? Why not?" she said, and added: "I never expected to live this long anyway, so it's uncharted territory."

Dusty Springfield was born Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien in Hampstead, of Irish parents. Her father was a tax consultant and her mother, as the singer once described her, was "a free spirit who married to escape spinsterhood; they both bitterly regretted it." Staunch Catholics, they stayed together for the children but quarrelled endlessly. Dusty recalled a troubled childhood. "I was so unhappy as a kid." She would challenge her hot-tempered father when he hit her, and she became "very jealous of my brother Dion. He was older and the blue-eyed boy."

She grew up at first in Buckinghamshire and then in Ealing, where she went to a convent school. On leaving she took a part-time job in Bentalls department store, meanwhile joining a syrupy all-female vocal trio, the Lana Sisters, which sang mostly at air bases. In 1960 she and Dion, who was already writing songs, adopted the stage names Dusty and Tom Springfield, and launched themselves as the Springfields, a folk-singing duo. Dusty supplied the guitar accompaniment.

Success was elusive to begin with, but when they werejoined by Tim Feild they quickly became one of the country's top vocal groups. They had two Top Five singles with *Island of Dreams* (1962) and *Say I Won't be There* (1963), by which time Feild had been replaced by Mike Hurst. The Springfields had a million-seller in America with the country standard *Silver Threads and Golden Needles* (although it did nothing in Britain) before splitting up in 1963.

Inspired by the ear-thumping "wall of sound" style pioneered by the American producer Phil Spector, Dusty Springfield recorded her first solo hit, *I Only Want to be with You*, which got to No 4. It was the first record ever played on a new television programme called *Top of the Pops*.

By 1967 she was in full flow, with a string of hits including *Middle of Nowhere*, *Some of Your Lovin'*, and *Look of Love*, which featured in the James Bond film *Casino Royale*. She was also a regular on the TV pop music show *Ready, Steady, Go*. At the time she used her celebrity to campaign on behalf of the then little-known American soul and Motown artists. Her eclectic taste in music tended to set her apart from most of her peers in this country. She became popular in America, where she made numerous appearances.

In all she had 16 hits almost successively during the 1960s before her career began to falter. She exiled herself to California for 15 years, living in a two-bedroom house with up to a dozen cats for company. She made sporadic visits to Britain, each time attempting a come-back. But renewed success eluded her until 1987, at the start of her collaboration with the Pet Shop Boys (the singer Neil Tennant and keyboard player Chris Low). Not only did she have a share in the duo's No 2 hit *What Have I Done to Deserve This?*, but she featured on the sound track of the film *Scandal*, about the Profumo affair, singing their theme tune *Nothing Has Been Proved*.

She was still bedevilled by her past, however. In 1991 she sued and won undisclosed damages in the High Court as the result of a sketch on a television show in which the comedian portrayed her performing while drunk.

After extensive chemotherapy she was in 1995 pronounced to be clear of cancer. But the disease returned in the following year.

She was appointed OBE in the last New Year's Honours.

FRANCES SAVIN

Frances Savin, campaigner for the family, died of cancer on February 13 aged 61. She was born on May 11, 1937.

FRANCES SAVIN was a tireless campaigner in support of the family. As a founder of the organisation Full Time Mothers, she was one of the first people to recognise the excessive tax burden on single-earner married families, especially after independent taxation of men and women was introduced. She felt that this made it more difficult for women to choose to remain at home to look after children, rather than going back to work. Though never dogmatic, she strongly believed that mothers ought not to be compelled to work by economic circumstances.

Brought up in Booterstown, Dublin, Frances Reynolds was educated at the Sion Hill Dominican Convent, Blackrock, and went on to University College Dublin, where she took a science degree in 1958.

In her early twenties she was one of the first female computer programmers, working in London and cutting a dash as she travelled around on her Bisa Bantem motorcycle. She married Tim Savin, who worked for BP, in 1962, and after her first child was born in 1963 she worked as a secondary school maths supply teacher and taught bridge at night classes.

In the 1970s she became increasingly saddened by what she saw as the denigration of the role of the full-time mother and the gradual elimination of tax benefits for the married two-parent family.

In 1988, when the youngest of her seven children was nine, she started an organisation called Women at Home, based on an Irish model. A year later Women at Home merged with another group of family campaigners and Full Time Mothers was born. It has campaigned for recognition of the value of parents looking after children in the home and the need for the State to recognise their value to society.

Frances Savin believed strongly that real equal opportunity would not exist until women could decide for themselves how they wanted to live, and she believed transferable tax allowances would help this. So Full Time Mothers claimed a victory when the Conservatives included the introduction of transferable personal allowances in their election manifesto.

Savin chaired Full Time Mothers for three years, from 1993 to 1996, during which time it affiliated to FEFAF, the European organisation of women working in the home. This took her to meetings all over Europe, and in 1995, as a guest of the British Embassy in Buenos Aires, she attended the first congress of the World Congress of Housewives.

She never lost her love of Ireland and the sea. She swam in the sea in all weathers, sailed, played tennis and was a keen bridge player. She was a staunch Catholic and helped to prepare children for their first communion.

For many years as district co-ordinator, she helped to raise money for the St Francis Hospice, Havering-Atte-Bower in Romford, where she died.

She is survived by her husband and by her son and six daughters.

THE RIGHT REV NEVILLE WELCH

The Right Rev Neville Welch, the first suffragan Bishop of Bradwell, died on February 3 at the age of 92. He was born on April 30, 1906.

A MAN of true humility, Neville Welch was a faithful priest and bishop, a disciplinarian in his own life and zealous in his prayer. When the new see of Bradwell was created in the large and complex diocese of Chelmsford, his appointment as the first bishop was widely welcomed. He was consecrated by Archbishop Michael Ramsey in Southwark Cathedral in 1968.

William Neville Welch was born in South Wales, the son of a priest in the diocese of Worcester and a Welsh woman who went home to her parents for the birth of her baby. The family was far from wealthy and very Victorian, so Neville and his brother and sister had a very strict upbringing. He went from Dean Close School, Cheltenham, to Keble College, Oxford, where he took his degree in history and won a half-blue.

At Oxford he discovered his vocation, and so he moved to Wycliffe Hall for his theological training. He was made deacon in 1929 and ordained a priest a year later, taking his title in the parish of Kidderminster in the diocese of Worcester. In those days Kidderminster had a staff of six curates and a curate's life was tough. Each evening they would stand before the incumbent to give an account of their day, and if in his eyes it was not satisfactory they would forfeit a day off.

Kidderminster was followed by a second curacy, in the parish of St Michael, St Albans. Welch felt he had been translated from the grim to the sublime. It was here that he met and married Bunty, an artist trained at the Slade.

In 1934 he moved into the Chelmsford diocese, living with his family in Moulsham as he took up his next post as travelling secretary in East Anglia for the Missions to Seamen (which he later chaired). His love of the sea brought him into contact with many people as he toured around East Anglia in his Ford 7. He was to remain in the diocese of Chelmsford for the rest of his ministry.

In 1939 he was appointed chaplain to the training ship *HMS Exmouth* on the Thames and also vicar of Grays. He threw himself into the life of the parish, and was especially involved in wartime evacuation programmes. Four years later he was appointed to the vicarage of Ilford, responsible for the churches of St Clement, St Margaret and St Alban. He was also chaplain to St George's Hospital.



Welch: took a questioning and critical view of the Church

He was mayor's chaplain several times, and he took an interest in the business and professional life of Ilford. He had a staff of three curates, and here his family grew up. The churches were flourishing and the Welch home was full of people. These were years of hard work, but they were immensely happy.

He took a keen interest in Church life at a national level, and was a Proctor in Convocation in 1945 and 1950 and a member of the Church Assembly, the predecessor of the General Synod. He was made an honorary canon of Chelmsford Cathedral in 1951.

In 1953 Bishop Faulkner Alison invited him to become Archdeacon of Southend and vicar of Great Burstead. The parish was run down, but he built it up, helped by a lively curate who eventually became vicar, enabling Welch to concentrate on the work of the archdeaconry. Several new parishes were established in Chelmsford and Southend, and the needs of the new town of Basildon had to be addressed.

Welch's appointment to the newly created see of Bradwell came after 15 years of hard and effective work as Archdeacon of Southend. Hewent on to prove himself an able Church of England bishop. He made it clear that he valued the breadth and comprehensiveness of the Church but had a questioning and critical view, and was willing to challenge shallow thinking when he thought he detected it behind some development in the life of the Church.

He retired in 1973 and moved with Bunty to Norwich, where he helped in the parish of St Thomas and took up painting with enthusiasm.

His wife predeceased him last year. He is survived by two sons (one of whom is ordained) and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 4, 1930

D. H. Lawrence, one of the most powerful and controversial English writers of the 20th century, died after much ill-health when only in his forties.

MR. D.H. LAWRENCE: WRITER OF GENIUS

David Herbert Lawrence, whose death is announced today, was born at Eastwood, near Nottingham, on September 11, 1885. His novel *Sons and Lovers* and his play *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* are at least so far biographical as to tell the world that his father was a coalminer and his mother a woman of finer grain. At the age of 12 the boy won a county council scholarship; but the sum was scarcely enough to pay the fees at the Nottingham High School and the fares to and fro. At 16 he began to earn his living as a clerk. When his ill-health put an end to that, he taught in a school for miners' boys.

At 19 he won another scholarship, of which he could not avail himself, as he had no money to pay the entrance fee; but at 21 he went to Nottingham University College, and after two years there he came to London and took up teaching again. It was in these years that he wrote, under the name of Lawrence H. Davidson, some books on history. He had begun also writing fiction, and his first novel, *The White Peacock*, was published about a month after his mother's death had robbed him of his best and dearest friend.

Sons and Lovers, published when he was 28, brought him fame. Many years of poverty were to pass before his work began to make him financially comfortable. But the revolt against society which fills his books had its counterpart in his life, in his travels, and in his attempt to found, in 1923, an intellectual and community settlement in New Mexico.

Undoubtedly he had genius. He could create characters which are even obtrusively real. His ruthless interpretation of certain sides of the nature of women was recognized by some women to be just. Every one of his novels, as well as his books of travel, contains passages of description so fine that they command the admiration of people whom much of his work disgusts. His powers range from a rich simplicity, a delicacy almost like that of Mr W.H. Davies, to turbulent clangour, and from tenderness to savage irony and gross brutality. There was that in his intellect which might have made him one of England's greatest writers, and did indeed make him the writer of some things worthy of the best of English literature. But as time went on and his tuberculosis took firmer hold, his rage and his fear grew upon him. He confused decency with hypocrisy, and honesty with the free and public use of vulgar words. At once fascinated and horrified by physical passion, he paraded his disgust and fear in the trappings of a showy masculinity. And, not content with words, he turned to painting to exhibit more clearly still his contempt for all reticence.

It was inevitable that such a man should come into conflict with the law over his novel *The Rainbow*; over some manuscripts sent to his agent in London; and over an exhibition of his paintings. But a graver cause for regret is that the author of *Sons and Lovers*, of *Amores* and the other books of poems, of *Aaron's Rod*, the short stories published as *The Prussian Officer*, *Ladybird*, and *Kangaroo* should have missed the place among the very best which his genius might have won.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Fraud crackdown delays benefits

■ Benefit claimants will have to wait longer to receive their money under a new crackdown on fraud to be unveiled later this month by the Social Security Secretary.

Alastair Darling is to instruct Benefits Agency staff to abandon their policy of processing claims as quickly as possible. They will instead be asked to check every detail of every application to ensure that no money is paid to bogus claimants...... Page 1

Massacre survivor cheats death twice

■ An air stewardess who survived the gorilla safari massacre has told how she booked the holiday to recover from an earlier escape from death. Dani Walthers, 26, was on a standby crew for Swissair Flight 111 which crashed off Halifax, Nova Scotia, in September last year, killing all 229 people on board. And on Monday she escaped again.................................... Pages 1, 8, 9

Dusty Springfield dies

Dusty Springfield, who won fame with hits in the 1960s, has died on the day she was to have been presented with an OBE.......... Page 1

Euro 'stampede'

People will take to the streets in a popular uprising against the "stampede" into the single currency, the Conservative party said last night.......................... Page 2

Love rivals in court

One of Britain's top horsewomen hid in a caravan while her dinner-jacketed ex-husband and her younger lover slugged it out in the stable yard after a hunt ball, a court heard....................... Page 3

Hair reveals cancer

Hair could be used as a simple screening test for breast cancer. Dr Veronica James of the University of New South Wales in Sydney has found.................. Page 4

Ballot challenge

Britain is about to inaugurate its most far-reaching constitutional and electoral experiment. On May 6, voters in Scotland and Wales will elect devolved legislatures........................... Pages 6, 7

Ulster deadline doubt

Tony Blair yesterday made his bluntest call yet for IRA disarmament as Mo Mowlam conceded that next Wednesday's deadline for transferring power to Northern Ireland would probably not be met............................. Page 10

Island refugees sue

A refugee who was evicted from his island home in the Indian Ocean by Britain 30 years ago was given the go-ahead to bring a High Court action against the Government.................... Page 11

Soper's socialism

Lord Soper, the Methodist minister and soapbox evangelist, believed that socialism was the Kingdom of God, so far as politics and economics would allow, his memorial service at Westminster Abbey was told.................... Page 13

Action plan revealed

British troops were within minutes of moving into Kosovo as a fighting unit, after 21 international monitors were detained by Serb forces last week......... Page 16

Referees 'bribed'

Football referees overseeing big European matches expect to be supplied with £2,000-a-night call-girls, Rolex watches and fur coats for their wives, a French court heard............................ Page 17

Lewinsky show aired

After days of leaks about the despondency that nearly drove Monica Lewinsky to jump to her death, Americans settled down to watch the TV interview... Page 18

Mandela calls poll

President Mandela has announced that South Africa's second democratic election will be held on June 2.................. Page 19

Maths reveals new twist in neck-ties

Two Cambridge physicists have applied the apparatus of mathematics to the humble neck-tie and invented six new "aesthetically-pleasing" knots. Thomas Fink and Yong Mao of the Cavendish Laboratory worked out that there are 85 knots that can be tied with a conventional tie. But many of these are too complex, and lead to unbalanced and unaesthetic results.... Page 1



SIMON WALKER

The fashion designer Georgio Armani takes centre stage after unveiling his 1999 autumn/winter collection at his palazzo in Milan

BUSINESS

Goldman Float: Goldman Sachs, the last Wall Street investment banking partnership, is to resurrect its flotation plans in a move that will make hundreds of employees multimillionaires................ Page 27

Monsanto talks: Monsanto, the controversial US company behind genetically modified soya, is reported to be considering a takeover proposal from DuPont.................. Page 27

Rates unchanged: The Bank of England paused for breath yesterday, after five successive rate cuts, and left interest rates unchanged at 5.5 per cent.......................... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 13.0 points to 6048.3. The pound rose 0.19 cents to $1.6177 and 0.16p against the euro to 67.48p. The sterling index rose to 102.5...... Page 30

SPORT

Football: All of Chelsea's industry will be needed to overcome the Norwegian side Valerenga in the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final at Stamford Bridge........................ Page 49

Rugby union: England have made three changes for the tough match against Ireland, bringing in Matt Perry, Paul Grayson and Kyran Bracken............................ Page 52

Tennis: Patrice Hagelauer has been appointed performance director of the LTA, responsible for all national training, both men and women in senior and junior divisions.................................. Page 46

Bryant's Eye: There is nothing like a good bout of exercise to work up a healthy appetite. Or is there? A lot of athletes, it turns out, are simply not eating enough.............. Page 50

Hollywood legacy: Later this month Elia Kazan will be presented with an Oscar for a lifetime's achievement in film, but some who recall the McCarthy hearings may not be applauding.............. Page 36

Talk show queen: Oprah Winfrey turns in a fine performance in *Beloved*, but that cannot save what is an otherwise a worthy, lengthy and disappointing film.............. Page 37

Dancing Don: Irek Mukhamedov stars in Kim Brandstrup's new ballet about the life of Don Juan, and the show would be unthinkable without him........................ Page 38

US import: Colin Firth and Elizabeth McGovern star in Richard Greenberg's American play *Three Days of Rain* at the Donmar Theatre............................ Page 39

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: The benefits of beta-blockers for heart patients; cigarette substitutes; a drug for children with attention deficit hyperactive disorder; sperm counts; saliva and HIV infections........... Page 20

Final solution: "The images of barbarity seemed to confirm the atavistic nature of the killing. Rwanda became just another African tragedy. The truth was different. What happened was genocide — carefully planned and clinically carried out by an extremist Hutu group using army units and police to drive people from their homes and assemble them at pre-arranged places for slaughter." Linda Melvern on the horror of Rwanda............... Page 21

Favoured son: Dickens has had the good fortune that Shakespeare has not: scholars squabble over the bard, but the great Victorian is well-served by collections and compendiums. Plus, Germaine Greer's new polemic and the legacy of Martin Luther King.......... Pages 40, 41

Without ever saying as much, the White House has escalated its air strikes against Iraq to advance the goal of toppling Saddam Hussein. If this is the new American strategy, President Clinton or the Defense Secretary William Cohen should let the American people and Congress know.

The New York Times

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **EDUCATION**

Stanley Goodchild and Valerie Bragg, left, the husband-and-wife troubleshooters assigned to turn around Kings Manor

■ **MEDIA**

Pity the poor press officers of the Metropolitan Police

Preview: *Access All Areas* (Channel 4, 8.30pm) follows the fortunes of a troupe of male strippers known as The Half Monty. **Review:** Joe Joseph witnesses the ultimate in playground dares........ Pages 50, 51

Completely bananas

It beggars belief that the inability of the European Union to settle a six-year-old dispute with the United States, over a fruit that neither of them grows, could risk a global trade war. But it accords entirely with experience that it is footdragging by the European Commission that is mainly to blame..... Page 23

Poll position

As an aid to the new institutions and unfamiliar electoral systems, *The Times* today publishes a comprehensive guide to the 1999 elections.............................. Page 23

Jam tomorrow

Dundee — a classic example of a city which fell into post-industrial decline — has become a pioneer in proving how a depressed society may pull itself back up by its bootstraps............................ Page 23

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The leaders of the "moral" Right became obsessive in their pursuit of President Clinton because they saw him as a carrier of the moral infection that was destroying American society............................ Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Next week is my father's centenary. I feel suddenly ancient. To have had a 19th-century parent, born in the Victorian era ... makes one sound incredibly old.......... Page 22

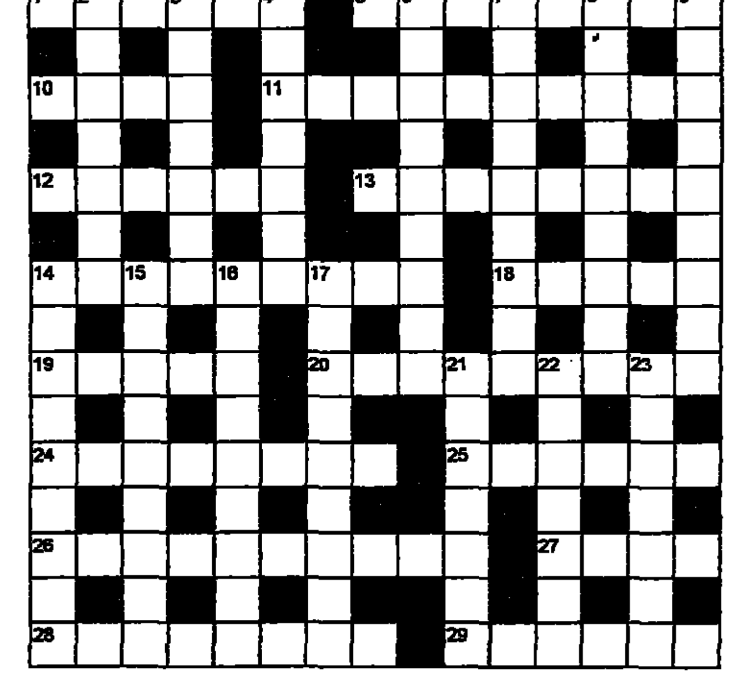
HANNAH BETTS

At the close of the 20th century the riff-raff have emerged triumphant. Oxbridge has declared itself open to students of all social, racial and religious backgrounds. The brightest and best of the nation's youth have replied with a two-fingered salute................................ Page 22

Dusty Springfield, pop singer; **The Right Rev Neville Welch**, first Bishop of Bradwell; **Sid Powell**, prison officer...................... Page 25

Women priests; employment tribunals; railway improvements; millennium; regional accents; treating psychopaths; poverty; de-regulating radio; Brit-spotting...... Page 23

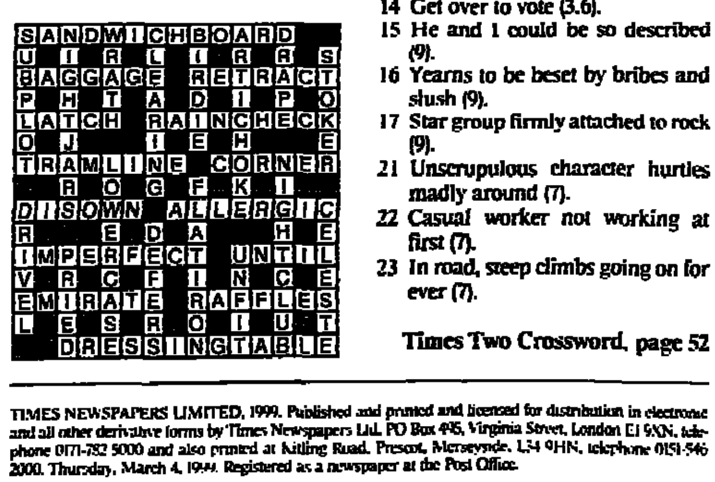
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,042



ACROSS
1 100,000 rupees, say, deposited in soldier's bank for protection (6).
5 One police force operating within the law – that's taken for granted (8).
10 Drunk? Turn red, not black (4).
11 Where eggs may be cooked for it (2,3,5).
12 A party Socialist was devoted to (6).
13 Positive about animal being put down (8).
14 Force to join crowd and go north of the border (5-4).
18 Record sound acoustically (5).
19 Port abandoned by an idiot (5).
20 Unseated – in fact, unseated after losing weight (9).
24 Poor director to whom money is owing (8).
25 Son frequently exhibiting temper (6).
26 Above board that's not uneven (2,3,5).
27 Composer learned when guided around (4).
28 Drummer in US takes drink aboard ship with crew (8).
29 Put out about extremely delayed puzzle (6).

DOWN
2 Illegally transfer several articles from abroad (7).
3 Associates in business given short change (7).
4 Do climb up crack (7).
6 Thin gloom could be dispelled in this (9).
7 As a rule, women going crazy over right gardening equipment (9).
8 Bed – I will get one immediately after the dance (9).
9 Ottoman's topped by this ornamental ropework (5,4).
14 Get over to vote (3,6).
15 He and I could be so described (9).
16 Yearns to be beset by bribes and slush (9).
17 Star group firmly attached to rock (9).
21 Unscrupulous character hurtles madly around (7).
22 Casual worker not working at first (7).
23 In road, steep climbs going on for ever (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,041



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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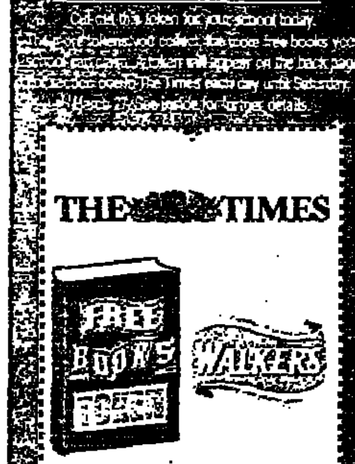
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.40 am — Sun sets: 5.45 pm

Moon sets: 7.47 am — Moon rises: 7.08 am

Last quarter March 10

London 5.45 pm to 6.38 am
Bristol 5.55 pm to 6.48 am
Edinburgh 5.52 pm to 6.55 am
Manchester 5.52 pm to 6.49 am
Penzance 6.08 pm to 6.58 am



☐ **General:** there will be a few sunny spells today, the best across east and south-east England, but most parts are again at risk from sharp showers.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, E Anglia, E&W Midlands:** sunny spells but heavy and possibly thundery showers. Light to moderate W to SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E England, NE England:** few bright spells and some showers, possibly thundery. Light, variable wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Channel Iss, SW England:** sunny breaks and showers, possibly thundery. Fresh to strong NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **S&N Wales, NW, Lakes, Cent N England, IoM:** bright spells, heavy and thundery showers. Strong NW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW, Glasgow, Moray Firth:** dull, rain. Fresh N to NE wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Highlands, Orkney, Shetland:** rain, sleet, snow. Fresh N-NE wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunshine and showers. Wind N, strong to gale. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells and heavy showers. Strong NW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells and showers. Strong NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow will see little change with most areas catching some showers again and there will be a brisk wind in the west. There may be some longer sunny spells on Saturday but it will be breezy with a continued threat of showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower, sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.2	0.01	8	46	s
Anglesey	3.4	0.05	9	48	sh
Aspatria	0.1	0.56	7	45	r
Aviemore	0.9	0.08	8	46	sh
Belfast	2.2	0.06	8	46	sh
Birmingham	0.8	0.23	7	45	sh
Bognor R	7.5	0.27	11	52	sh
Bournemth	7.1	0.25	10	50	sh
Bristol	2.6	0.40	9	48	sh
Buxton	2.4	0.37	7	45	sh
Cardiff	0.7	0.24	10	50	sh
Cleethorpes	4.8	0.06	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	1.2	0.15	8	46	c
Cromer	2.7	0.07	10	50	sh
Eastbourne	6.8	0.35	10	50	h
Edinburgh	3.5	0.03	10	50	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.20	6	43	r
Exmouth	3.3	0.13	10	50	sh
Fishguard	0.4	0.08	9	48	sh
Folkestone	6.4	0.35	10	50	sh
Glasgow	2.8	0.09	9	48	sh
Guernsey	8.4	0.25	12	54	s
Hastings	5.7	0.24	10	50	sh
Hayling I.	4.8	0.34	10	50	sh
Herne Bay	6.3	0.10	11	52	sh
Hove	0.6	0.22	9	48	b
Hunstanton	2.7	0.13	9	48	sh
Isle of Man	2.2	0.35	8	46	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.24	10	50	sh
Jersey	7.6	0.20	11	52	s
Kinloss	1.2	0.07	6	43	r
Leeds	3.4	0.16	9	48	sh
Lerwick	-	0.38	4	39	sl
Leuchars	4.3	0.01	9	48	b
Littlehampton	5.9	0.28	11	52	b
London	5.1	0.17	11	52	sh
Lowestoft	6.8	0.13	11	52	s
Manchester	1.9	0.10	9	48	sh
Morecambe	0.2	0.64	8	46	r
Newcastle	0.8	0.24	8	46	b
Newquay	3.9	0.09	9	48	sh
Norwich	4.5	0.08	11	52	sh
Oxford	4.7	0.17	10	50	sh
Penzance	4.7	0.25	12	54	gS
Prestatyn	2.1	0.14	10	50	b
Ross on Wye	0.7	0.72	9	48	r
Saunton Sands	3.2	0.13	10	50	s
Shrewsbury	2.8	0.20	10	50	sh
Skegness	3.0	0.04	10	50	sh
Southend	7.0	0.09	11	52	sh
Southsea	4.9	0.17	11	52	r
Stornoway	0.1	0.18	6	41	r
Swanage	6.9	0.28	11	52	s
Teignmouth	5.2	0.13	11	52	sh
Tenby	3.7	0.26	10	50	sh
Tiree	1.3	0.08	8	46	sh
Torquay	4.5	0.20	12	54	sh
Tynemouth	-	0.24	7	45	r
Weymouth	4.8	0.29	10	50	sh

Extremes: highest day temp: Guernsey, 12C (54F), lowest day temp: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 2C (36F); wettest, Sennybridge, Powys, 1.15in; sunniest: Guernsey, 8.4hr.

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s
Alexdria	20	68	s
Algiers	13	55	r
Amst'dm	10	50	r
Athens	17	63	s
Bahrain	25	77	s
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	s
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beijing	12	54	s
Beirut	17	63	s
Belgrade	13	55	s
Berlin	6	43	r
Bermuda	21	70	f
Biarritz	12	54	s
Bordeaux	13	55	f
Brussels	10	50	r
Budapest	13	55	s
B Aires	31	88	f
Cairo	21	70	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s
Chicago	4	39	s
Ch'church	X		
Cologne	9	48	c
C'phagn	5	41	f
Corfu	15	59	f
Dublin	11	52	r
Dubrovnik	14	57	s
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	14	57	s
Frankfurt	9	48	c
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	11	52	f
Gibraltar	16	61	c
Helsinki	1	34	c
Hong K	24	75	s
Innsbruck	7	45	s
Istanbul	14	57	s
Jeddah	25	77	s
Jo'burg	31	88	f
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Touqet	9	48	f
Lisbon	15	59	s
Locarno	11	52	s
L Angeles	19	66	s
Luxembg	5	41	r
Luxor	24	75	s
Madrid	12	54	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	16	61	c
Melbourne	X		
Mexico C	21	70	s
Miami	23	73	s
Milan	14	57	s
Montreal	1	34	f
Moscow	-3	27	sn
Munich	11	52	s
Nairobi	30	86	f
Naples	17	63	s
N Delhi	24	75	s
N York	7	45	r
Nice	16	61	s
Oslo	3	37	s
Paris	10	50	c
Perth	X		
Prague	8	46	f
Reykjavik	0	32	s
Rhodes	17	63	s
Rio de J	30	86	s
Riyadh	26	79	f
Rome	15	59	s
R'ndeway	7	45	c
Salzburg	10	50	s
S Frisco	12	54	s
Santiago	21	70	c
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	8	46	c
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	4	39	s
Strasbrg	8	46	f
Sydney	21	70	c
Tangier	17	63	f
Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Tenerife	19	66	c
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	2	36	s
Tunis	16	61	c
Valencia	17	63	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Venice	8	46	s
Vienna	13	55	s
Warsaw	6	43	c
Wash'ton	9	48	f
Zurich	7	45	f

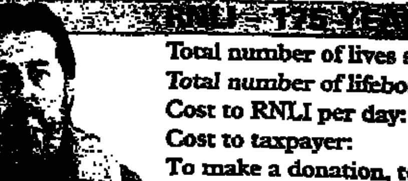
Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available

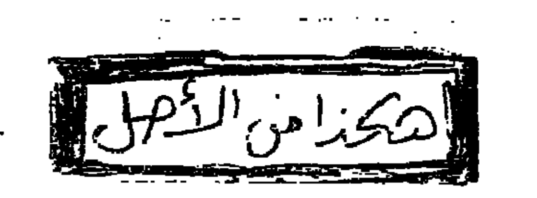
Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will stay stationary and fill; low B will track eastwards, merge with low C and develop; low D will run northeast and maintain its central pressure; high Y will sink southwards; high Z will drift eastwards

Warm front / Cold front / Occluded front

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:36	4.2	14:43	4.3
Avonmouth	8:34	13.5	20:54	13.3
Belfast	0:16	3.3	12:24	3.6
Cardiff	8:20	12.4	20:40	12.3
Devonport	7:07	5.4	19:24	5.2
Dover	0:06	6.7	12:24	6.5
Dublin	0:39	4.0	12:55	4.2
Falmouth	6:36	5.2	18:55	5.0
Greenock	1:59	3.2	13:49	3.6
Harwich	0:57	3.9	13:18	3.9
Holyhead	11:39	5.7	23:58	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	7:38	8.5	19:45	8.9
Ilfracombe	7:18	9.3	19:36	9.1
King's Lynn	7:39	6.6	19:42	6.9
Leith	3:51	5.5	16:13	5.5
Liverpool	0:21	9.3	12:37	9.5
London Bridge	3:08	7.2	15:29	7.4
Lowestoft	11:03	2.4	22:59	2.6
Margate	1:11	4.7	13:39	4.7
Milford Haven	7:33	7.0	19:50	6.8
Newquay	6:24	7.0	18:41	6.8
Oban	6:51	4.0	19:18	3.9
Penzance	5:54	5.6	18:11	5.4
Portland	8:19	2.0	20:41	1.8
Portsmouth	0:20	4.6	12:30	4.5
Shoreham	0:21	6.3	12:28	6.2
Southampton	0:04	4.5	12:13	4.5
Swansea	7:36	12.4	19:52	12.1
Tees	5:01	9.8	17:11	10.0
Walton-On-Naze	0:50	4.2	13:12	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres





The truth about Elia Kazan

Arts, page 36



BUSINESS · ARTS · BOOKS · SPORT · TELEVISION

THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MARCH 4 1999

The real Luther King

Books, page 40

Goldman Sachs poised to revive flotation plan

By Oliver August and Caroline Merrell

GOLDMAN SACHS, the last investment bank partnership on Wall Street, is to resurrect its flotation plan in a move that will make hundreds of employees multimillionaires.

The 220 partners are to vote on the deal by teleconference on Monday. The flotation plan is likely to value the bank at more than $20 billion (£12 billion). An equity slice of 10 to 15 per cent will be brought to market, and partners may start cashing in their stakes in three to five years. Partners stand to make an average of about $100 million each from the sale.

One reason to restrict the initial offering to a maximum of 15 per cent is to deter rivals from attempting to take over the bank. Analysts claim that Goldman shares could start trading as early as May.

Yesterday Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, Goldman Sachs's co-chairmen, said: "We have recommended that the firm become a public company to secure permanent capital to grow; to share ownership broadly among our employees; and to permit us to use publicly traded securities to finance strategic acquisitions that we may elect to make in the future."

Commentary 29

The bank yesterday carefully prepared its employees for the momentous change in its corporate culture that will result from the flotation plan. A series of video recordings of question-and-answer sessions with senior partners were posted on an internal website.

Under the original flotation plan, many non-partners would have missed out on the distribution. The plan was withdrawn last autumn when the stock market plunged. But under the new scheme that is expected to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission shortly, all 11,000 Goldman bankers will be entitled to stock. The bank has not yet released any details of how large employee stakes will be.

However, according to one analyst, the new plan is likely to result in slightly lower payouts for Goldman's current and retired partners. All of the payouts will be in the form of shares that can only be sold at a later date to prevent employees from leaving. But employees may borrow money and pledge the shares as collateral.

The flotation was delayed last year when Goldman's prospective market value dropped from about $30 billion to about $16 billion as shares slumped on Wall Street.

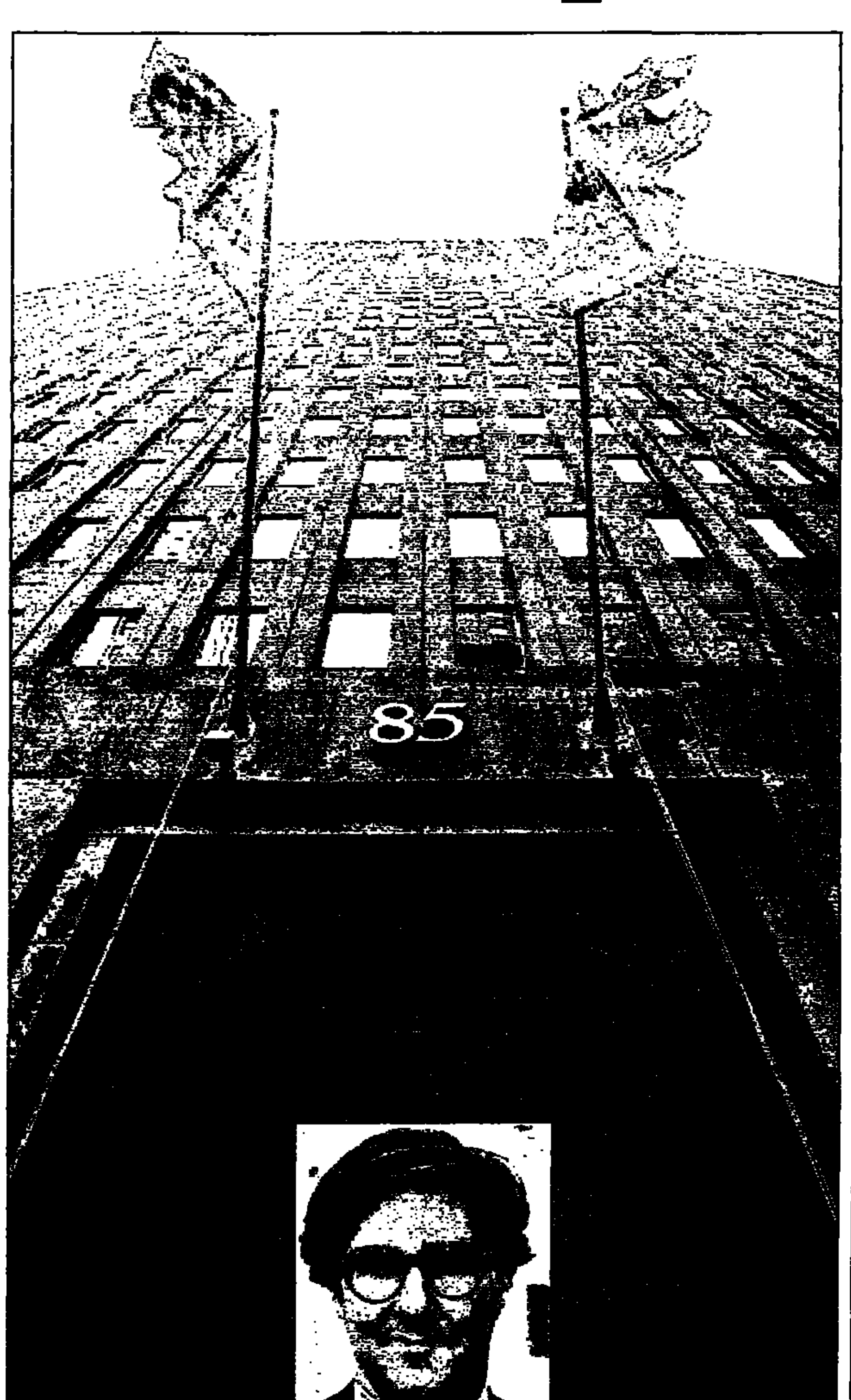
Goldman has 2,500 staff in Europe, most of whom work in the London head offices. Some 37 partners are based in London, including Gavyn Davies, chief economist, who could be in line for shares worth about $50 million.

The partners first voted on the flotation plan last June. It was approved, but not without dissent. Some partners feared that Goldman's unique culture of co-operation would be lost once the executives were no longer the owners.

At the time, Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson said: "This decision was reached after a lengthy, open and intense dialogue. Our culture of collaboration and teamwork, which has been inextricably linked to the firm's success, will continue to flourish in the new structure, reinforced by the manner in which we implement our plan." Top executives hinted that a key reason for going public was to be able to make large acquisitions by swapping shares. Analysts claim that lacking the ability to buy banks in stock swap transactions has harmed Goldman.

After flotation, Goldman Sachs is likely to turn itself into a fully integrated financial services business. US consumers could soon be able to have a Goldman building society account. The investment bank recently applied for permission to run a savings and loan company at the US Office of Thrift Supervision.

John Thain and John Thornton, partners who sit on the top management committee and initially spoke out against a flotation, now back the deal. The flotation documents are being drafted by an in-house team at the investment bank.



Goldman's New York head office, and, inset, John Thornton, who no longer opposes flotation

Du Pont's Monsanto link would dwarf rivals

By Paul Durman

A COMBINATION of the agrochemical interests of Du Pont with Monsanto, the US group at the centre of the genetically modified food controversy, would face a stiff challenge from competition authorities, industry rivals gave warning yesterday.

The acquisition of Monsanto, valued last night at about $28 billion (£17.3 billion), by DuPont would create a company that controlled about 20 per cent of the world market in products such as herbicides and pesticides.

It would dwarf leading competitors headed by Novartis, of Switzerland, and Britain's Zeneca, and would also overtake Aventis, the company set to emerge from the proposed merger of Hoechst, of Germany, and Rhône-Poulenc of France.

Neither Du Pont, the world's largest chemicals group, nor Monsanto would comment on a *New York Times* report that the two companies had opened preliminary merger discussions. Shares in both companies rose in US trading yesterday.

The report suggested that Bob Shapiro, Monsanto's chairman and chief executive, is seeking a deal that would allow his smaller company to retain its distinctive culture — much more informal and, it claims, entrepreneurial than many big companies. Mr Shapiro sets the tone by dressing casually and encouraging subordinates to challenge him.

Despite the controversy in Britain over GM food, a much bigger problem for Monsanto is the collapse of last year's proposed merger with American Home Products, the large US pharmaceuticals group.

This has left Monsanto's finances looking stretched, it having spent more than $8 billion on expensively priced acquisitions, some of which are not expected to produce substantial profits for years. It suffered another setback recently when two potentially big-selling drugs developed by its GD Searle arm proved ineffective in late stage trials.

DuPont, best known in the UK for making Lycra and Teflon, is, like Monsanto, investing heavily in biotechnology in the belief that science is set to transform the growing of crops and create a huge new market. DuPont has estimated that biotech markets could be worth as much as $500 billion a year by 2020. According to Zeneca, the entire agrochemical industry is currently worth no more than $33 billion. Zeneca believes the new market in GM crops, currently negligible, could grow to be worth $75 billion by 2020.

Shares in Monsanto rose about 5 per cent to $46.75, still well below the $63.94 they reached last August.

A clash of corporate cultures is believed to have been an important ingredient in the collapse of Monsanto's deal with AHP.

INFLUENCE OF THE 'BIG TWO'

☐ Monsanto is the world's second-largest agrochemicals company but has cast itself as a visionary for the power of genomics and biotechnology to improve the quality and yield of crops and food. This led it to spin off its traditional chemicals business and to embark on an $8 billion spree on speculative acquisitions that have left it labouring under a debt mountain. GD Searle, its drugs arm, developed Celebrex, a new treatment for arthritis.

☐ DuPont is the world's largest chemicals company, a $45 billion colossus whose best-known brands include Lycra and Teflon. A major oil and gas producer, DuPont also invests in biotechnology to develop its existing crop protection business. With $2.5 billion of sales, it is the world number four in "agchem".

Business Today



Scenting danger

Why perfume is an industry in decline

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6048.3	(-13.0)
Yield	2.63%	
FTSE All Share	2781.89	(-3.66)
Nikkei	14170.36	(+249.30)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9293.54	(-4.07)*
S&P Composite	1226.62	(+1.12)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.67%*	(5.62%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	[illegible]	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	115.47	(n/a)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6136*	(1.6158)
London:		
$	1.6177	(1.6158)
€	1.4818	(1.4787)
SFr	2.3563	(2.3535)
Yen	196.66	(194.35)
£ Index	102.5	(102.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0886*	(1.0935)
SFr	1.4605*	(1.4565)
Yen	121.65*	(120.02)
$ Index	108.8	(108.3)

Tokyo close Yen 121.17

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$11.45	($11.10)

GOLD

London close	$286.65	($288.15)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Oftel rings numbers changes

By Chris Ayres

THE massive changes to Britain's telephone numbers proposed by Oftel, the telephone industry regulator, are set to go ahead in April 2000, in spite of objections from business and MPs.

Four years after the introduction of 01 numbers, new numbers will be allocated to London, Northern Ireland, Cardiff, Coventry, Southampton and Portsmouth. Changes to mobile, pager, local, national, and premium-rate numbers will take place over the next two years.

Oftel admitted that another 14 British cities would probably have to change numbers by 2005, and a further seven by 2012. Oftel blames the huge explosion in demand for telephone services. David Edmonds, Director-General of Oftel, said: "It is clear that the scheduled changes to the numbering system must go ahead."

Under the new system, new area codes of 02 and 03 will be introduced next year. Codes ranging from 04 to 06 will be reserved for future use, and 07 will be reserved for mobile phones and pagers. As a result, nearly all phone numbers will become longer. The 08 code will be kept for freephone numbers, while 09 will be used for premium-rate numbers.

The Trade and Industry Committee has criticised Oftel for failing to consult customers adequately on the changes; that the arguments for the number changes were not convincing; and that some of the proposals were wrong.

Bank puts rate cuts on hold

By Saeed Shah

THE Bank of England paused for breath yesterday, leaving its key interest rate unchanged at 5.5 per cent, bringing to an end a five-month run of monetary easing, on the back of a series of data that points to the economy stabilising.

Most economists said, however, that they expect the Bank to resume cuts, and would expect interest rates to be a further half or full percentage point lower by the end of this year.

Business leaders felt the caution shown by the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, chaired by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was not justified. The British Chambers of Commerce said the decision was "a bitter pill for UK manufacturers to swallow".

The lack of a move, which had been broadly expected by financial markets, sent the pound to a record closing high against the euro, at 67.48p.

Two surveys published yesterday underlined the fragile state of the economy. Retailers enjoyed improved trading conditions in February according to the Confederation of British Industry. The positive reading of 2 per cent shown in the survey was still weak, though better than the negative balance of 9 per cent in the previous month.

A service sector survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply showed that activity fell for the fourth consecutive month in February.

Commentary, page 29

George: caution criticised

Miners win working test case

EMPLOYERS can be sued if they force staff against their will to work more than 48 hours a week, the High Court ruled yesterday in the first legal test case on the Working Time Directive.

The ruling, on an action brought by five pit deputies against RJB Mining, endorsed the European directive and ordered RJB to comply and to pay costs. Mr Justice Gage said the directive, which came into force last October, was "a mandatory requirement which must apply to all contracts of employment".

John Monks, the TUC's General Secretary, said: "This judgment is excellent news. The judge has given the red card to Britain's bullying bosses."

Employees can work more than 48 hours if they sign an opt-out agreement. Nacods, the pit deputies' union, advised its members not to sign as some deputies were being forced to work 60 hours a week. RJB said it had only asked staff to work their normal hours.

'Triple A' blow for M&S

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

MARKS & SPENCER suffered further blows yesterday. As it lost a coveted 'triple A' credit rating, one of its leading clothing suppliers admitted that trade is still very slow, while another said it is being forced to lay off 200 workers.

William Baird, M&S's fourth-largest clothing supplier, yesterday reported lower profits, adding: "If there is to be a recovery in 1999 it will not be before the second half of the year."

Underlying pre-tax profit at the company during 1998 was down 9 per cent to £30.5 million. Operating profits were worst at the division that supplies M&S, almost halving to £6.9 million, on the back of a 5 per cent downturn in sales to £214.3 million.

David Suddens, chief executive, said that orders made so far by M&S for the rest of this year are considerably below last year's level. He also said Baird, which closed five UK factories supplying M&S last year, expects to make further job cuts this year and next in order to move manufacturing to countries with cheaper labour. Much of its manufacturing for M&S is being transferred to Sri Lanka.

Shares in M&S closed down 14½p at 380½p, while Baird fell 4p to 105p.

M&S's dramatic fall in sales, which led to a profits warning last month and a move away from its traditional insistence on "Made in Britain", were felt by Coats Viyella, the chain's second-largest clothing supplier. It is closing a factory in Alloa, near Stirling, which makes women's outerwear for M&S, with the loss of 200 jobs.

Moody's Investors Services, meanwhile, said yesterday that it had lowered the rating on M&S's senior debt to AA1 from AAA because it thought that the erosion of the business's competitive position in the UK retail market will continue to weaken the company's financial flexibility and diminish the quality of its fundamental business position. Its top short-term rating is not affected.

Muslim fund steers clear of usury

By Gavin Lumsden

DEVOUT Muslims who want to make money should find the going a bit easier from next week when the Britain's first Islamic investment fund is launched.

The fund, called Al-Safa Investment, will only invest in companies approved by Islamic law, or Sharia, and will eschew any involvement in lending or charging interest, which strict Muslims regard as usury.

Named after a mountain on the road to Mecca, Al-Safa is the brainchild of STZ, a Muslim partnership based in West London. STZ has convinced three Islamic scholars from the UK, Canada and Egypt to team up with Greig Middleton, a City stockbroker, and City Financial, a fund manager, to offer Britain's two million Muslims a "unique" investment opportunity.

Ian Thomson, a partner at STZ and an independent financial adviser who converted to Islam 13 years ago, said: "We've launched this for fairly selfish reasons really. We had nowhere else to put our money. Until now many Muslims have had to compromise and put their money on deposit but not take any interest. The banks were making money hand over fist."

Although the fund plans to invest internationally, it will initially focus on the UK's top 350 quoted companies. However, only 200 of these are likely to be eligible as the fund is banned from buying shares in companies involved in tobacco, alcohol, pornography or who sell non-halal food.

Brian Tora, head of Greig Middleton Asset Management, the fund's investment adviser, expressed enthusiasm for the project but is expecting to heed Islamic scholars. One scholar, Mohamed El-Sharkawy, the imam, or leader, of the Islamic Culture Centre in London, is fond of quoting from the Koran: "Refrain from all usury. If you are believers. If you do not, then expect a war from Allah and His messenger."

Committee examines FSA Bill

By Caroline Merrell

LORD BURNS, a former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, will head a cross-party committee that aims to facilitate the path of the Financial Services and Markets Bill through Parliament.

The Bill, which increases the powers of the Financial *Services Authority, has* met opposition from some in the financial services industry, as they believe the legislation will allow the FSA to act as judge, jury and executioner.

The role of the committee is to ensure *that any problems in the* Bill are ironed out before it reaches Parliament. Ministers hope it will report on the Bill by April, and that Parliament will consider the Bill as soon as possible after that.

Before he joined the Treasury, Lord Burns was Professor of Economics at the London Business School and ran its Centre *for Economic Forecasting.* Others on the committee include Lord Poole, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Lord Eatwell and David Heathcoat-Amory, MP.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	21.40	19.74
Belgium Fr	63.01	58.05
Canada $	2.585	2.397
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9022	0.8307
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.72
Egypt	5.73	5.12
Finland Mkk	9.37	8.62
France Fr	10.20	9.42
Germany Dm	3.063	2.821
Greece Dr	503	464
Hong Kong $	13.36	12.16
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17899	12899
Ireland Pt	1.2223	1.1333
Israel Shk	6.89	6.23
Italy Lira	3046	2809
Japan Yen	211.29	193.76
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlds Gld	3.458	3.163
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.41	12.47
Portugal Esc	309.83	287.80
S Africa Rd	10.72	9.76
Spain Pta	258.22	239.43
Sweden Kr	14.12	13.02
Switzerland Fr	2.510	2.292
Turkey Lira	592903	553484
USA $	1.723	1.580

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Serco in talks with MoD over possible £9bn contract

By Fraser Nelson

SERCO is in talks to take over the Royal Air Force's entire air-to-air refuelling fleet in a deal that the Ministry of Defence has valued at £9 billion.

Richard White, chief executive of the prisons-to-trains outsourcing company, has met MoD officials and offered to replace the ageing fleet of Tristars and VC10s at RAF Brize Norton.

The 20-year deal would be the largest PFI contract awarded by the Government. It would involve buying about £2.5 billion of new aircraft, and spending another £6.5 billion on direct groundcrew and operational costs.

Mr White has offered to order and maintain the new aircraft, possibly employing groundcrew and running the airport. In return, Serco would be free to use them to refuel civil aircraft when not being used by the RAF.

Mr White said yesterday: "The aircraft would be flown by RAF pilots and there would be an arrangement where we would provide more aircraft in time of war.

"It's like leasing a car — we would look after the financing, the maintenance, the support costs — everything."

The MoD said yesterday that its current fleet could, in theory, last until 2015. But its 24 VC10s are already 30 years old, and its nine Tristars have been in service for 15 years.

It said: "They do need replacing, and we've asked the industry to come up with ideas. We are open to all options."

The MoD is conducting the talks under its "Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft Programme", which is by far the largest Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project to date. It is due to start in October 2002.

Mr White added that Serco, which specialises in PFI work, has offered to take part in the partial privatisation of London Underground through its £1 billion joint venture with Nomura.

It already runs the driverless Docklands Light Railway, which has connected the City of London to the Canary Wharf development since 1988. He said: "With Docklands, we have looked after the signalling, the trains and the maintenance as one package. Although it's a much smaller scale than London Underground, it has been a success and it should put us in good stead."

He added that he would be keen to participate in the privatisation of Air Traffic Control — but is less confident that the contract will ever come up on the market.

Serco now runs a stream of outsourcing deals under defence, health, prisons, scientific research and transport.

Its underlying pre-tax profit was an expected £26.4 million (£22 milion) for 1998, leaving headline earnings of 27.4p (23.9p) per share. The total dividend rises to 7.4p (6.4p) with a final 5.1p.

Fund swaps hit Schroders

By Caroline Merrell, banking correspondent

SCHRODERS, the investment bank, has admitted that *the poor performance* of its own fund managers led to it losing about £3 billion of institutional business last year.

David Salisbury, chairman of the bank's Schroder Investment Management arm, said yesterday that the money had been switched from Schroders' active managers to investment houses that offered passive fund management in the form of index tracking. Despite the switch, funds under management grew by 11 per cent to stand at £119 billion at the year end, with net new money accounting for £5 billion of the increase.

Mr Salisbury said: "The active managers found it difficult *to keep pace with the indices.* We have had our fair share of bad publicity. We have seen these periods of underperformance before."

He said that Schroders had tried to address some of its performance problems, but claimed that there had been no change in basic philosophy.

Schroders announced a 5 per cent fall in 1998 pre-tax profits to £232 million, from £245 million. Earnings were dented by a bad debt provision of £43 million in Asia on top of a £24 million provision for the *region* made the previous year.

The bank said that it did not expect to have to extend these provisions any further this year. Peter Sedgwick, deputy chairman, said that despite the problems in Asia, it expected to maintain a strong presence there.

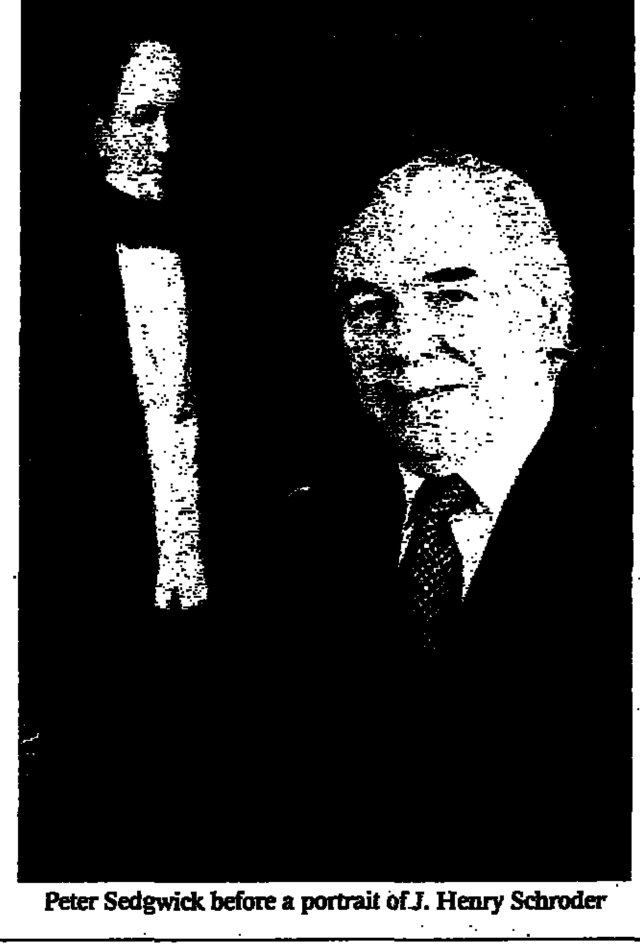
Profits before provisions were up by £6 million to £275 million. Schroders is raising the total dividend by 8 per cent to 16.5p a share.

The bank, nearly 50 per cent owned by members of the Schroder family, said it was well placed to benefit from corporate restructuring in Europe and asset *management opportunities worldwide.*

Mr Sedgwick said that the bank was sure that it could remain independent, despite the consolidation among other investment banks.

Analysts said the results were slightly better than expected. "Now that 1998 is behind us, we won't probably see *any further provisions for* Asia," said Tom Rayner, banking analyst at SG Securities.

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Peter Sedgwick before a portrait of J. Henry Schroder

Tax blow to German insurers

By Sigrid Aufterbeck

GERMAN insurers failed to convince Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to scrap tax reforms which they said would cost them billions of marks, but did win a pledge for a review of the situation in a year.

At an emergency meeting yesterday, Herr Schröder told the insurance industry that he would consider an amendment if the additional tax burden on the companies exceeded the Government's own estimate of DM8.75 billion (£3 billion). Insurers say the changes will cost them DM13.7 billion a year.

Herr Schröder's four-year package envisages net tax cuts *of DM20.5 billion (£7.19 billion)*, mainly targeted at cutting the burden on average income earners. But insurance companies have said that they would be the main victims of the reform, as a result of the abolition of tax breaks. Allianz, Germany's largest insurer, threatened to move operations abroad over the tax changes. Several insurers also threatened to boycott German government bond auctions in protest.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Citigroup's second Canary Wharf site

CANARY WHARF, the 81-acre office development that is heading for a £2.6 billion flotation, has secured a major letting to Citigroup, which plans to take a 42-storey office building to be built at the London Docklands site. The new 1.2 million sq ft tower will adjoin a 17-storey building currently under construction for Citibank. The larger building will house the investment banking and corporate banking arms of Salomon Smith Barney and Citibank, bringing together 6,000 Citigroup personnel at the Canary Wharf complex.

Citigroup has agreed a long lease on the new tower, designed by Cesar Pelli & Associates, at a rent thought to be about £35 per square foot. Paul Reichmann, Canary Wharf's chairman, said that the deal was a milestone for it. "The 42-storey Citigroup headquarters tower will join the existing 50-storey landmark One Canada Square and the 42-storey HSBC tower currently under construction," he said. Canary Wharf's pathfinder prospectus is due at the end of next week. A quarter of the enlarged company will be sold in a flotation.

McKinsey Isa contract

MCKINSEY, the management consultant, has been commissioned by the Treasury to track the development of the individual savings account (Isa). The contract shows that the firm's links with the Conservatives do not exclude it from collaborations with new Labour: William Hague is a former McKinsey employee. Using data supplied by banks, building societies, insurance companies and others providing Isas, McKinsey will observe how much is being invested in the scheme.

Spring Ram jobs go

CUTBACKS in orders from DIY retailers have forced Spring Ram, the kitchens and bathrooms specialist, to shed 250 jobs and spend £1.5 million on scaling back production. It blamed the cuts for a 68 per cent fall in operating profit, to £1.1 million, in the year to January 23. It said £2 million of annual overheads were eliminated in the second half, which should save £6 million a year. Exceptional items left pre-tax profits at £3.3 million (£500,000). The total dividend stays at 0.1p.

Hanson sells stake

HANSON, the building materials group, has raised A$224.3 million (£87 million) by selling its 23.8 per cent stake in Westralian Sands, the Australian mineral sands company. Hanson originally held 40 per cent of RGC, another Australian mineral sands miner, which last year merged with WestSands, leaving Hanson with a stake in the new group. *Hanson said that it planned to use the proceeds to fund the* purchase of more building products companies in America.

BioMedica seeks £3.6m

OXFORD BIOMEDICA, which claims to be the UK's leading specialist in gene therapy, is raising £3.6 million as a possible prelude to a move to the main market from the AIM. It plans a one-for-five rights issue of new shares priced at 15p — 50 per cent more than last year's fundraising. The money should enable the company to continue funding its cancer trials until the end of next year. Alan Kingsman, chief executive, said BioMedica is also considering Easdaq as an alternative to London.

Get it right — never mind the price



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Goldman Sachs flotation is on again. This time, however it may look to jealous outsiders, the decision to float is not about turning the partners into multi-millionaires. Oh no, this time Goldman is floating as part of a carefully *thought out* strategic plan for the development of the group. That is what the double act of John Thornton and John Thain has been telling the troops as they have whistle stopped through Asia, the US and Europe. The message may even, for a few moments, have stopped the troops worrying over just how many shares they were going to get. But not for long.

After the fiasco of last autumn's pulled flotation, the bank cannot afford to fail again. So now the message is that price is almost irrelevant: the important thing is to get the IPO over quickly and efficiently then get on with running the business. If Goldman tried telling its corporate clients that price was not important, they might be inclined to take their business elsewhere. But in this case it is largely true. With no more than 15 per cent of the company being sold and the inside shareholders forced to hold the stock for between three and five years, the partners can afford to price the issue at a level which will ensure it gets away swiftly. Their rewards will come later.

Goldman has been through a bruising period. The partners *were divided over the original* float plans: a fly on the boardroom wall would have witnessed scenes of naked greed which even some of the masters of the universe claimed to have found shocking.

Perhaps the experience really did cause a few investment bankers to wonder whether there was *more to running a world beating* bank than money. Anyhow, the result has been a change at the top of the organisation. Jon Corzine vacated the chief executive's chair and Hank Paulson moved into it. Together with Messrs Thornton and Thain, an established team, the trio now appear to be running the show. And they have been telling Goldman's near 2000 staff of their vision for the future: of a business which is strong on communication and encourages the careers of women and ethnic minorities.

But enough of that. Goldman is one of the world's three global investment banks, along with Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. It intends to hang onto that position and will go on grabbing business worldwide. Forty per cent of its profits now come from Europe and Asia where, just five years ago, it was still losing money. Its culture will not be changed by the flotation: the aim remains to win. Apple pie features *a long way down the menu*. The flotation provides a different way of rewarding staff: there will be shares for all, largely allotted on merit, which promises plenty of scope for excitement. And there will be paper with which to make acquisitions. That is not on the agenda now, of course, but that is what they all say.

A fresh plea for stunted giants

Few in the City will be bemoaning the loss to the stock market of Wainhomes. The company was floated in 1994 at 170p a share and now it is going private at 140p. This short and inglorious life as a public company bears no relation to Wainhomes's real business, which saw profits double in five years. No wonder the directors have decided that they need the City as much as Goldman Sachs partners need starter homes.

The company's exit from the stock market gives perfectly timed emphasis to the conclusions of a newly republished report forecasting the potential demise of the smaller quoted companies sector. Not all these tiddlers will grow into *Tomorrow's Giants*, the romantic title of the report, but, the way the stock market is polarising at the moment, the danger is that many potentially significant companies will be deprived of the route to capital and, thereby, expansion.

The Treasury is aware of the problem. Paul Myners spelt it out in his recent report and Geoffrey Robinson, when he was Paymaster General, established the inevitable committee to take a look. *Tomorrow's Giants* is a sequel to the work of that committee, penned by its deputy chairman, Brian Basham, and Craig Pickering who, for the past five years was head of the Industry division at the Treasury.

Mr Basham, best known as a corporate spin-doctor, tried his hand at building what might have been a giant of the future by launching a nursing home business. Rather than risk rejection by the stock market, he decided to sell to BUPA instead. But no matter: he would like others to have the chance to grow.

The report has a plethora of suggestions, ranging from the fashionable one of educating children in the joys of investment to pushing more company information on to the Web. That alone would have been unlikely to have altered the fortunes of a future Wainhomes.

What the report comes down to is a call for more tax incentives to encourage the private investor. It lands on Gordon Brown's desk as he puts the finishing touches to the Budget and is likely to be pushed on to an ever-increasing pile of worthy and unread pleas. Yesterday, the pile was also added to by another paeon of praise for employee share ownership plans from the ever-active Denis MacShane, MP.

The argument in both cases is that we should be encouraging more private investors. The Government should not ignore them.

ABI pulls off a palace coup

Luring Mary Francis to be the next director-general of the Association of British Insurers is quite a coup for chairman Sandy Leitch. Yesterday this column said that leading trade associations should take an im*aginative approach to filling the* top jobs that have fallen vacant simultaneously. Poaching from the Queen is certainly more adventurous than hiring someone from another industry organisation, as the ABI had done in the past, or another McKinseyite, the CBI's usual recruiting trick.

A former Treasury civil servant, Ms Francis has been at Buckingham Palace for the past three years. She may find that modernising the monarchy is a breeze compared with the problems of putting a positive case for the financial services industry. While the ABI would like to move on from pensions mis-selling, even the past week has seen the chairman of the Financial Services Authority warning that Isas will be mis-sold and the insurance ombudsman laying into mortgage protection policies.

Under such attacks, the industry tends to stifle its fears over how the plans for new savings products and complicated pension schemes are supposed to work. Ms Francis, with her knowledge of royal protocol, may prove to have been an inspired choice in securing enlightenment. A curtsey might secure that most sought-after privilege for those who want to learn what the Treasury is really thinking: an audience with Ed Balls.

Dr Brown's remedy

THE terminology surrounding *the decisions of the Monetary Policy* Committee has abandoned ornithology in favour of pharmacology. Hawks and doves have flown. Now Eddie George dishes out aspirins and the British Chambers of Commerce decries yesterday's decision to leave interest rates unchanged as "a bitter pill". Yet, with the Budget just days away, the MPC needed to pause from its rate cutting. After all, Gordon Brown may be planning to hand out a few antidepressants to industry.

GKN profits up by 14% despite gloom on cars

By Adam Jones

GKN shares rose more than 7 per cent yesterday after an unexpectedly strong performance at its pallet rental business, Chep. The surge in the stock price came despite a downbeat forecast for car production in Europe.

GKN reported 1998 profits of £462 million before goodwill amortisation and exceptionals, a 14 per cent rise on 1997. Analysts had expected between £436 million and £460 million.

GKN said Chep, a joint venture that provides and manages crates for supermarket chains and others, enjoyed double-digit growth in all its operations. One big growth market is for returnable produce pallets that can be moved straight out into a supermarket display.

Group-wide sales of the company which manufactures propellor shafts and other components for cars, sells powder metals for a variety of uses, as well as making Westland helicopters, came in at £3.71 billion, up from £3.38 billion. Earnings per share were up from 39.2p to 80.2p, reflecting a £248 million one-off gain following a successful appeal against a court decision in the US last year.

GKN said it could afford to spend up to £1 billion on aquisitions but C.K. Chow, chief executive, played down the need to buy competitors in the automotive or support services fields.

It is still in talks to form an alliance between Westland and Agusta, the Italian helicopter company. GKN has already merged its armoured vehicle business with Alvis. It is unlikely that Vickers will inject its struggling tank-making arm into this pairing.

Mr Chow said GKN expects the US car market to be flat this year, although the group's market share should rise. Recent problems in Brazil had affected automotive profits but Mr Chow emphasised that emerging markets account for just over 3 per cent of sales.

GKN expects European car production to fall by about 3 per cent in 1999. The European car industry is responsible for about £1.4 billion of GKN sales. Danny Bevan, an analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, was unfazed: "They look as if they are going to manage their way through the European downturn reasonably effectively."

Demand for GKN's agricultural profits in Europe is also expected to fall this year, following an earlier slump in the US.

A dividend of 10.55p per share has been declared, making 16.3p (14.75p) for the year. The shares closed at 910p, close to their all-time high of 925p.

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Heavy going for Ladbroke's bookies

LADBROKE has experienced difficult trading conditions in its UK betting shop chain as it puts the final touches to its £1.5 billion takeover of Stakis, the rival hotel and gaming group (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company yesterday admitted that although trading in its two divisions had been "satisfactory" in the first two months of the year, trading margins in its Ladbrokes bookies' shops had been "lower than planned".

In common with rivals such as William Hill, Ladbrokes has suffered from effects of poor weather on race meetings and some predictable football results, enabling punters to rake in higher winnings than normal. A spokesman said: "Margins do fluctuate. That's the nature of the business."

Ladbroke was unveiling a 22 per cent rise in 1998 profits, before tax and exceptionals, to £276.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 14.82p to 17.90p. A 4.64p final dividend makes 7.58p, up 10 per cent. The Hilton International hotels division lifted profits by 2 per cent, to £181 million, with betting and gaming up 55 per cent, to £172.4 million — or 23 per cent excluding the effect of the recently sold Coral.

There was a £9.8 million writedown of launch costs of Vernons Easy Play, a football-based National Lottery game with 350,000 players a week, against forecasts of up to three million.

Thistle unveils record profits

By Dominic Walsh

THISTLE HOTELS, London's biggest hotel group, emerged from a year of turmoil to report record profits before tax and exceptionals of £86.6 million — a 9.2 per cent increase over 1997.

On a like-for-like basis revenue per available room rose by 5.6 per cent to £49.52, driven by a 6.1 per cent rise in average room rates. Bedroom occupancy saw a slight dip to 71.9 per cent from 72.3 per cent.

Including exceptional items, pre-tax profits almost halved to £46.8 million, with adjusted earnings per share reaching 11.9p (12.1p). This included a £27.5 million loss on the disposal of 34 of its regional hotels, realising £74.5 million, and £19 million from new accounting rules on property valuations.

There were also one-off costs of £1.4 million in advisers' fees relating to the abortive sale of the company to Nomura last summer. Thistle's shares, which had touched 250p in June, went into a tailspin after the deal's collapse, sinking to 103½p last December. Yesterday, they shed 3½p to 136½p.

Burke: "revenue growth"

Ian Burke, chief executive, said that trading in the first two months of the year had delivered "modest like-for-like revenue growth".

A final dividend of 3.0p makes a total of 4.5p, up 7.1 per cent. *Investors will also share* a £92.4 million special dividend — the second tranche of the £185 million promised in September.

Cookson to spend £400m

By Paul Durman

COOKSON, the industrial materials group, has £400 million to spend on acquisitions to bolster its new focus on electronics, ceramics and engineering.

Steve Howard, chief executive, said Cookson was considering "a couple of deals worth £200 million or more" as well as the more familiar bolt-on acquisitions.

Mr Howard said the company was making progress with its recently announced plans to close 20 manufacturing plants and rationalise another 10, which will cause 700 job losses. The first £50 million of costs from this programme was the main reason operating profits fell last year from £188.3 million to £122.9 million. Annual savings of £14 million are expected from next year.

Underlying pre-tax profits were 15 per cent lower at £151 million. *A final dividend of* 5.1p increases the total for the year by 2 per cent to 9.4p a share. Cookson's shares slipped 5½p to 149p.

Dawson chief fears US backlash on cashmere

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

SCOTTISH cashmere companies could be seriously damaged by the continuing uncertainty over whether the United States is to impose sanctions in its "banana war" with the European Union, a leading manufacturer said yesterday.

Peter Forrest, chief executive of Dawson International, the company behind the Pringle and Ballantyne brands, said: "The bad thing is that the indecision carries on and could delay some quite serious business coming Scotland's way." Small, independent companies will probably be worst hit, he said.

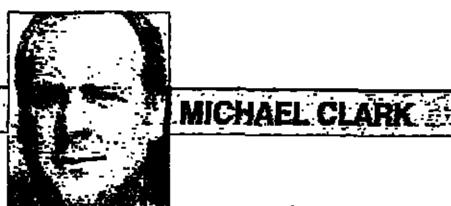
America says the EU's banana regime actually favours EU-based marketing companies and deprives its own big firms, such as Chiquita and Dole Foods, of revenues. It has drawn up a list of EU goods, including Scottish cashmere sweaters, that could be affected by 100 per cent tariffs.

Dawson said it will be largely protected from sanctions because it has a China-based business, which mainly supplies the US with cashmere and which would not be affected.

Dawson said yesterday that it intends to focus entirely on cashmere and to sell its other businesses after a year in which it fell £30.6 million into the red.

Dawson made a pre-tax profit in the previous year of £10.2 million. It is not paying any dividend for the year to January 2 (2.75p in the previous year). There were exceptional charges of £19.6 million relating to restructuring.





Rentokil slips further despite rogue trade

SIR CLIVE THOMPSON, chief executive of **Rentokil Initial**, must have been all smiles yesterday afternoon.

He had spent the previous 24 hours taking stick about the slowdown in earnings that led him to miss his own 20 per cent earnings growth per annum pledge and which saw shares in his company take a 10 per cent dive.

So it will have came as something of a surprise when the *Rentokil* price raced up by well over 100p at one stage to touch 525p on the London Stock Exchange's computerised trading system Sets.

Word is it was Schroders that did the damage — though not for any reasons of belated support for Sir Clive. One of its traders came over all fingers and thumbs and mistakenly entered the number of shares he wanted to buy, 525,000, into the space where the bid price should have gone.

Shocked rival traders fell over themselves in an effort to accommodate his order. At least one line of 15,000 shares went through at 525p along with 43,000 at 465p before the mistake was discovered.

The rogue trades were later corrected. Just as well for Credit Lyonnais, the broker, which is believed to be talking Rentokil down to the 300p level.

Rentokil shares closed the day 4½p cheaper at 396¼p.

The absence of *another* cut in bank rates saw share prices give up an early lead. An uncertain start to trading on Wall Street and further weakness among US Treasury bonds only added to the dull backdrop. Dealers say there is little reason for investors to test the waters ahead of next week's Budget.

In the event, the FTSE 100 index finished 13.0 down at 6,048.3 having seen an earlier lead of 55 points wiped out. Once again it was outperformed by the FTSE 250 index, up 9.6 at 5,286.9 with total turnover topping a billion shares.

Some bullish comments from Credit Lyonnais gave **BOC Group** a welcome fillip with the price finishing 24½p better at 858p. It rates the *shares a "buy" and says the* low point in the company's fortunes has now been reached.

Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, helped rein in **COLT Telecom**, 16½p, lower at £11.20, after telling clients to "reduce" their holdings. The group's demands for cash have left the broker unimpressed.

Compass Group advanced *20½p to 767p* as Salmon Smith Barney raised its recommendation for the shares from "outperform" to "trading buy". It continues to set a target price for the shares of 830p.

Amvescap was down 10¼p at 604½p. This was in spite of Charles Bauer, deputy chairman, selling 129,542 shares at 601p. His holding is now 48.26 million, or 7.18 per cent.

Viridian jumped 24½p to 733p in response to news of the proposed joint venture with **Energis Group**, 120p dearer at £15.80. The companies plan to build a new telecommunications network and launch a service in Northern Ireland.

There was some heavy turnover in **Hanover International** with 261,000 shares changing hands as the price firmed 10p to 105½p. Results out later this month should make good reading and may help to silence shareholder discontent.

A drop in both profits and sales left **William Baird** nursing a fall of 4p to 105p. The textiles group blamed the downturn in fortunes of its biggest customer Marks & Spencer and gave warning that the first half of current year would reflect the economic slowdown.

Share buying by one director and more than doubled pretax profits were responsible for the rise of 8½p to 50p in **Jacobs Holdings**. Michael Kingshott, managing director, has bought 100,000 shares at 47½p taking his holding to 7.5 million, or 7.4 per cent.

Locker Group dipped ¾p to 13¾p. James Southworth, managing director, unloaded 73,400 shares at 14p. It reduces his holding to 21,980, or less than 1 per cent.

A profits warning left **Pilkington Tiles** nursing a loss of 2½p at 10p. The group says deferred orders and problems at one of its plants will bring profits in below expectations.

There were some heavy buyers moving in late on **Wates City of London** as the price rose 6½p to 72½p on the back of plans to return cash to shareholders. They included a buy*er of one million shares at 69p*, 550,000 at 73p and 350,000 at 72p. The developer has put the "for sale" sign up on some of its properties.



Tim Scope, finance director, left, and David Suddens, chief executive, saw William Baird slip 4p to 105p as profits fell

OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE HIGH STREET

FTSE All-share index (rebased); FTSE 350 Retailers price index; Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb; 2,600 2,500 2,400 2,300 2,200 2,100 2,000 1,900; Source: Datastream

MARKS & SPENCER finished 14¾p lower at 380½p with brokers convinced that trading conditions are worsening.

HSBC Securities, the broker, continues to tell clients to reduce their holdings, while earlier this week WestLB Panmure, the broker, said the shares were *probably only worth 300p.* Moody's, the debt rating agency, has compounded the retailer's problems by lowering its senior debt rating from AAA to AA1.

Arcadia — the Burton, Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins retailer — also made heavy weather of it, with the price sliding 18p to 213p.

The shares have come up from about the 190p level since early February, with one large seller cleared from the market. But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains unimpressed *and is still telling clients* to "reduce" their holdings.

By contrast, Great Universal Stores added a further 17p to 839p with Panmure a *buyer* and *Merrill Lynch* forecasting a price of 875p.

□ *GILT-EDGED:* Further weakness in US Treasury bonds and the MPC's decision to peg interest rates left bond prices nursing falls of more than £1. Yields were down across the spectrum but the worst of the falls were seen in shorter-dated issues, which are traditionally more sensitive to interest rate movements.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 76p lower at £115.47 as 33,000 contracts were traded. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 106p to £144.50, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 *was 41p down* at £106.04.

□ **NEW YORK:** US stocks were flat as big technology and oil issues helped pull Wall Street off morning lows. At midday *the Dow Jones* industrial average was down 4.07 points at 9,293.54.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 9293.54 (-4.07)
S&P Composite .... 1226.62 (+1.12)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 14170.36 (+249.30)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 9922.40 (+8.82)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 519.16 (-6.93)

Sydney:
AO .... 2889.9 (-2.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 4697.67 (-106.35)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1415.81 (-2.80)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3294.41 (-9.92)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4004.16 (-44.47)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1336.70 (-3.20)

London:
FT 30 .... 3728.3 (+14.0)
FTSE 100 .... 6048.3 (-13.0)
FTSE 250 .... 5286.9 (+9.6)
FTSE 350 .... 2876.0 (-4.4)
FTSE Eurotop 100 .... 2758.09 (-17.86)
FTSE All-Share .... 2781.89 (-3.66)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2825.66 (-5.29)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 153.76 (-0.55)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 112.25 (-0.72)
Bargains 76310
SEAQ Volume 1009.4m
US$ .... 1.6177 (+0.0019)
Euro .... 0.6748 (-0.0016)
£:SDR 1.1745
Exchange index .... 102.5 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI .... 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX .... 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Acorn Income Fund	101½	...	
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...	
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½	...	
Gander Properties	7¼	...	
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107½	...	
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	99	+	½
Luminar Warrants	330	−	5
NBA Quantum	110	+	½
South African Breweries	440	+	1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brancote n/p (10)	1½	+	¼
Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78)	21	...	

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Torotrak	130	+ 26½	+ 25.6
Jacobs	50	+ 8½	+ 20.4
Wainhomes	138½	+ 23½	+ 20.4
Plasmon	115½	+ 13	+ 12.6
Laing (J)	289½	+ 31	+ 11.9
Telemetrix	65	+ 6½	+ 11.1
Estates Agency	550	+ 50	+ 10.0
Parity	730	+ 65	+ 9.7
Hewden-Stuart	132½	+ 11½	+ 9.5
Acorn	190½	+ 15½	+ 8.8
Lavendon	271	+ 22	+ 8.8
Jardine Lyd Th	197½	+ 15½	+ 8.5
Energis	1580	+120	+ 8.2
GKN	910	+ 62½	+ 7.3
Mayflower	176½	+ 10½	+ 6.3
Lorien	184	+ 10½	+ 6.0
Newsquest	352½	+ 20	+ 6.0
Phytopharm	250	+ 13	+ 5.4
EFM	291½	+ 15	+ 5.4
GEC	565	+ 29	+ 5.4
Blacks Leis	218	+ 10½	+ 5.0
Driefontein	255	+ 12¼	+ 5.0

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Telspec	115	− 17½	− 13.2
Nord Anglia	248½	− 24½	− 8.9
Britannic	1065	− 97	− 8.3
Arcadia Group	213	− 18	− 7.7
Indpt Energy	667½	− 50	− 6.9
Smith & Neph	170	− 11	− 6.0
Euro Sales Fn	301½	− 17	− 5.3
Relyon	380	− 20	− 5.0
Railtrack	1455	− 75	− 4.9
Bayer DM50	2131¼	−100	− 4.4
Ashanti	548½	− 24	− 4.1
Cable&Wire Coms	685	− 27	− 3.7
Marks Spencer	380¼	− 14¾	− 3.7
Thomson Corp	1466¾	− 49	− 3.2

TEMPUS

Engineering progress

GKN has become a safe haven for investors who want exposure to the engineering sector but are worried about plummeting valuations elsewhere. It is easy to understand the attraction. Under the steady leadership of C. K. Chow, the affable chief executive, GKN has shown that diversification can be an asset for an engineer.

The group's bread and butter is making fairly heavy duty car parts for that notoriously cyclical industry. It is tough out there for automotive engineers, but by harnessing new technology based on the use of cheaper powdered metal, GKN has found a platform for organic growth even as it is squeezed by the carmakers.

Where GKN comes into its own, however, is its ability to offset the cyclicality. Westland Helicopters provides a steady order stream. More tellingly, the logistics business is going great guns. The pallet-making Chep business increased sales by 15 per cent in Europe and 31 per cent in the the Americas last year.

The spread means that investors can look beyond the gloomy predictions on car production numbers. It is also an asset for GKN in sales of helicopters. A recent order from South Africa required offsetting investment which will be mainly *satisfied by expanding* Chep in the republic.

But are these qualities now appreciated? Are the shares fully valued at 910p? Probably, especially compared with automotive engineers. But management strength, *the most* important element in any company's fortunes, means that this group should continue to progress. Investors have no reason to lose faith in GKN. Hold.

Schroders

IT IS hard to believe that shares in Schroders were changing hands for nearly £20 each less than 12 months ago. Hindsight is a wonderful thing but even a year ago it was becoming painfully obvious that the Far East was entering prolonged economic difficulties, and Schroders's investment banking activities would be hit.

The investment manage*ment side of Schroders was* also showing signs that it had achieved much of what it could achieve, near term. As a specialist active *manager*, shrewd investors would have noticed that it would feel the backlash from the growing appetite for index tracking.

It was not even as if the stock had palpable takeover attractions, what with the Schroder family speaking for just under 50 per cent of the company. The key lessons to be learnt from Schroders's recent stock price history are for investors rather than the company. Notwithstanding the Asian shocks, it is more than proficient at advising commercial clients on corporate strategy and is right to persevere, particularly with the Tigers. It had a poor year in fund management, but there is a comforting solidity about income derived from handling pension and unit trust investment assets.

Investors must learn to keep their feet on the ground. At £12.90 yesterday, the p/e is about on a par with its FTSE 100 peers, and justifiably so. At £20 the p/e would have been 35.

Hold now.

RESUMING NORMAL SERVICE

Schroders; Schroders share price; FTSE All-share index (rebased); 1996 1997 1998 1999; 2,000 1,800 1,600 1,400 1,200 1,000 800 600; Source: Datastream

Britannic

YESTERDAY'S sharp fall in Britannic shares may mark a watershed. The stock has enjoyed darling status for much *of the past five years as it un*wound its orphan asset estate and appeared to be in pole position to make hay as private individuals saved for their own welfare needs.

As an operator among lower income groups Britannic was also viewed as being well placed to serve those whom the Government is most concerned about.

Those attractions remain. But the obligation to reduce the value of its long-term life insurance business — the so-called embedded value — raises troubling questions.

The revaluation was *prompted* by falling investment returns and compounded by another increase in the provisions taken to cover pension mis-selling obligations. ing. *Neither is terminal*, but the fact that Britannic was unable to predict movements *and manage expectations low*er without shock, suggests that the company cannot see (or is unwilling to accept) harsh truths.

*The embedded value reduc*tion diminishes Britannic's net asset value per share to about 915p, instead of the £10 that many analysts had reckoned on. This was neatly reflected in the 97p share price fall to £10.65 yesterday. At these levels the shares have yield attractions, but Britannic's reputation as a growth stock may be lost.

Wilson Bowden

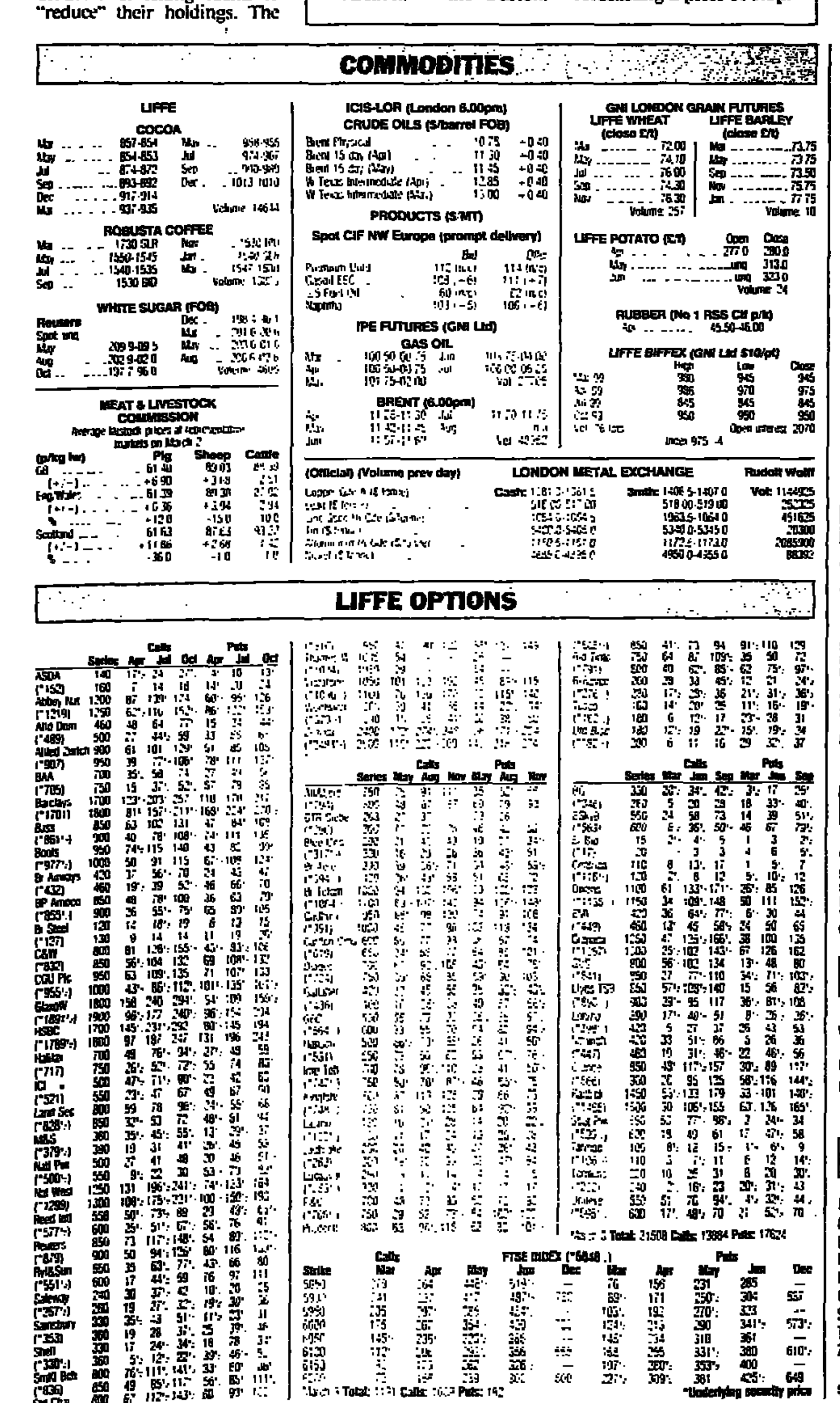
MANY of the leading housebuilders' shares are now trading at or near double figure p/e ratios. Wilson Bowden, under the spotlight yesterday courtesy of the fact that it published annual results, is a good example. Using the earnings for 1998 — and disregarding the impact of the pen*sion refund — Wilson shares* now change hands for the equivalent of 10.4 times earnings.

The logic behind buying housebuilding shares is bolstered because of takeover speculation. But Wainhomes *is being taken private* — with apparent investor blessing — for less than 10 times.

There could come a time, perhaps shortly, when the sector rerating runs out of steam. Wilson, with a yield of less than 3 per cent, may already be at fair value. Demand for housing remains strong and planning constraints stifle supply. But Wilson, with 16 per cent operating profit margins, must rely on turnover growth for profits advances. These prospects are steady, but not fantastic.

Historic p/e ratios of up to 12 are sensible, especially where they are backed with well-covered, market-beating dividends. Wilson Bowden, however, is no longer worth chasing.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

Mar	857-854	May	958-955
May	854-853	Jul	974-967
Jul	874-872	Sep	990-989
Sep	893-892	Dec	1013-1010
Dec	917-914		
Mar	937-935	Volume	14644

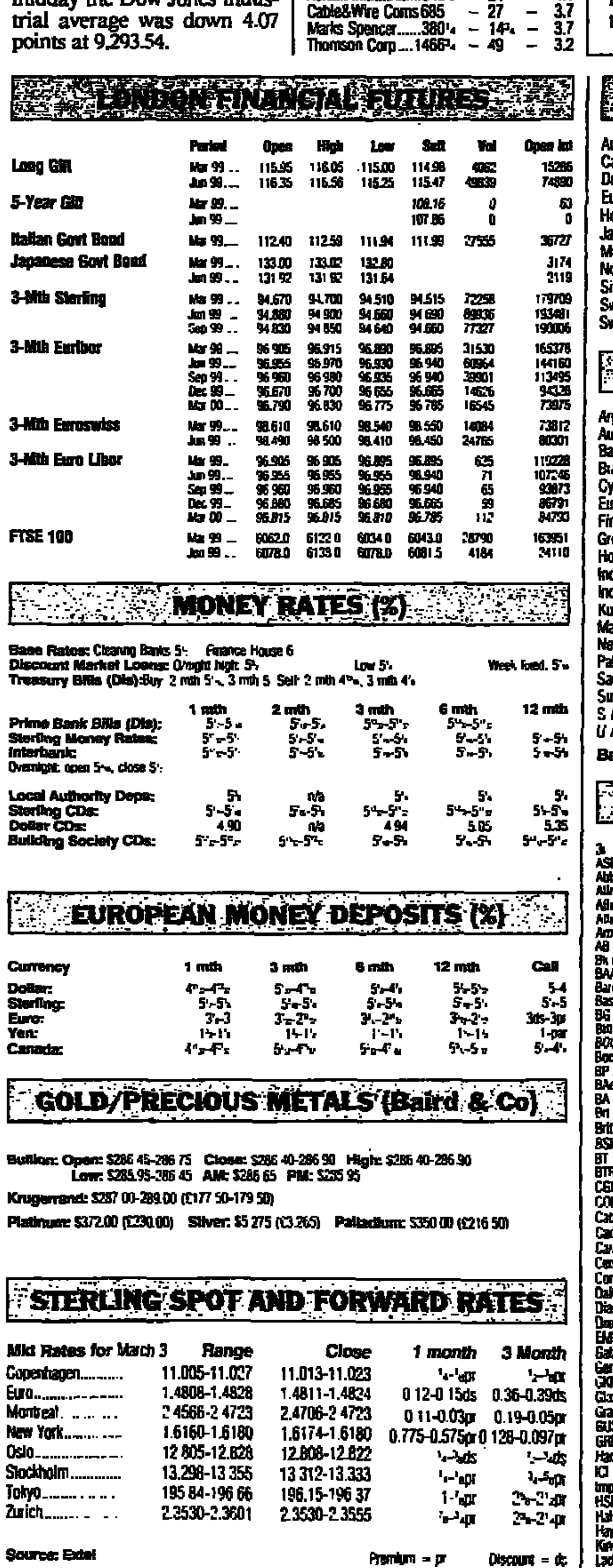
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.75	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Apr)	11.30	+0.40
Brent 15 day (May)	11.45	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.85	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (May)	13.00	+0.40

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.00	Mar	73.75
May	74.70	May	73.75
Jul	76.00	Sep	73.50
Sep	74.30	Nov	75.75
Nov	76.30	Jan	77.75
Volume: 257		Volume: 10	

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	115.95	116.05	115.00	114.98	4062	15286
	Jun 99	116.35	116.56	115.25	115.47	49839	74890
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.16	0	63
	Jun 99				107.86	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	112.40	112.59	111.94	111.99	27555	36727
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	133.00	133.02	132.80			3174
	Jun 99	131.92	131.92	131.64			2119
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.670	94.700	94.510	94.515	72258	179709
	Jun 99	94.880	94.900	94.660	94.690	89936	193481
	Sep 99	94.830	94.850	94.640	94.660	77327	190006
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.905	96.915	96.890	96.895	31530	165378
	Jun 99	96.956	96.970	96.930	96.940	60864	144160
	Sep 99	96.960	96.980	96.935	96.940	39801	113495
	Dec 99	96.670	96.700	96.655	96.665	14626	94328
	Mar 00	96.790	96.830	96.775	96.785	16545	73975
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.610	98.610	98.540	98.550	14084	73812
	Jun 99	98.490	98.500	98.410	98.450	24765	80301
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.905	96.905	96.895	96.895	625	119228
	Jun 99	96.955	96.955	96.955	96.940	71	107246
	Sep 99	96.960	96.960	96.955	96.940	65	93873
	Dec 99	96.680	96.685	96.680	96.665	59	86791
	Mar 00	96.815	96.815	96.810	96.785	112	84733
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6062.0	6122.0	6034.0	6043.0	28790	163951
	Jun 99	6078.0	6133.0	6078.0	6081.5	4184	24110

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth [illegible], 3 mth 5 Sell 2 mth [illegible], 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.90	n/a	4.94	5.05	5.35
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $286.45-286.75 Close: $286.40-286.90 High: $286.40-286.90 Low: $285.95-286.45 AM: $286.65 PM: $285.95

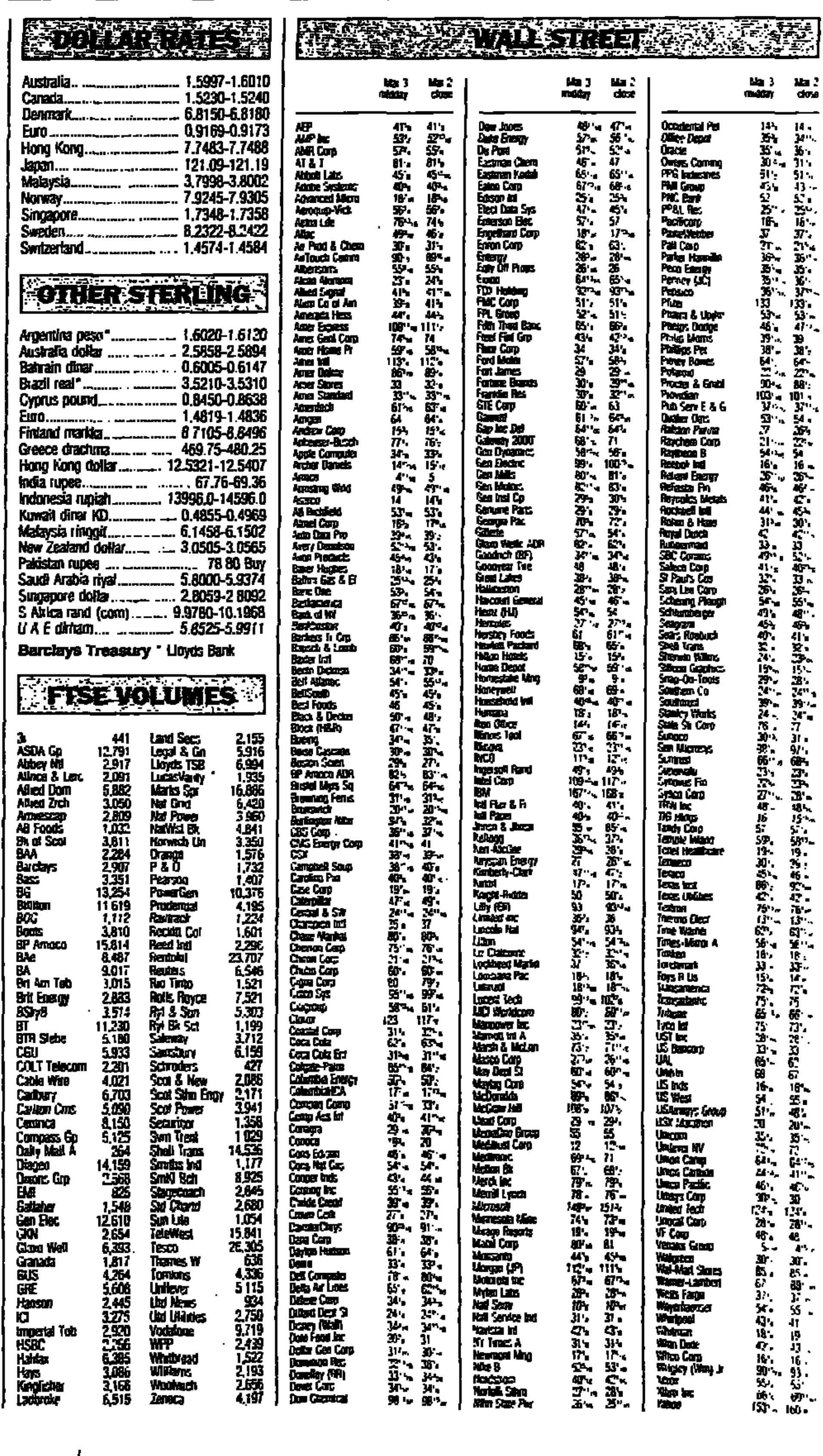
Krugerrand: $287.00-289.00 (£177.50-179.50)

Platinum: $372.00 (£230.00) Silver: $5.275 (£3.265) Palladium: $350.00 (£216.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.005-11.027	11.013-11.023	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4808-1.4828	1.4811-1.4824	0.12-0.15ds	0.36-0.39ds
Montreal	2.4566-2.4723	2.4706-2.4723	0.11-0.03pr	0.19-0.05pr
New York	1.6160-1.6180	1.6174-1.6180	0.775-0.575pr	0.128-0.097pr
Oslo	12.805-12.828	12.808-12.822	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.298-13.355	13.312-13.333	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	195.84-196.66	196.15-196.37	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3530-2.3601	2.3530-2.3555	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5997-1.6010
Canada	1.5230-1.5240
Denmark	6.8150-6.8180
Euro	0.9169-0.9173
Hong Kong	7.7483-7.7488
Japan	121.09-121.19
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.9245-7.9305
Singapore	1.7348-1.7358
Sweden	8.2322-8.2422
Switzerland	1.4574-1.4584

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6020-1.6130
Australia dollar	2.5858-2.5894
Bahrain dinar	0.6005-0.6147
Brazil real*	3.5210-3.5310
Cyprus pound	0.8450-0.8638
Euro	1.4819-1.4836
Finland markka	8.7105-8.8496
Greece drachma	469.75-480.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5321-12.5407
India rupee	67.76-69.36
Indonesia rupiah	13996.0-14596.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4969
Malaysia ringgit	6.1458-6.1502
New Zealand dollar	3.0505-3.0565
Pakistan rupee	78.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8000-5.9374
Singapore dollar	2.8059-2.8092
S Africa rand (com)	9.9780-10.1968
U A E dirham	5.8525-5.9911

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	441	Land Secs	2,155
ASDA Gp	12,791	Legal & Gn	5,916
Abbey Ntl	2,917	Lloyds TSB	6,994
Allnce & Leic	2,091	LucasVarity	1,935
Allied Dom	5,882	Marks Spr	16,886
Allied Zrch	3,050	Nat Grid	6,420
Amvescap	2,809	Nat Power	3,960
AB Foods	1,032	NatWst Bk	4,841
Bk of Scot	3,811	Norwich Un	3,350
BAA	2,284	Orange	1,576
Barclays	2,907	P & O	1,732
Bass	3,351	Pearson	1,407
BG	13,254	PowerGen	10,376
Billiton	11,619	Prudential	4,195
BOC	1,112	Railtrack	1,224
Boots	3,810	Reckitt Col	1,601
BP Amoco	15,814	Reed Intl	2,296
BAe	8,487	Rentokil	23,707
BA	9,017	Reuters	6,546
Bri Am Tob	3,015	Rio Tinto	1,521
Brit Energy	2,883	Rolls Royce	7,521
BSkyB	3,574	Ryl & Sun	5,303
BT	11,230	Ryl Bk Sct	1,199
BTR Siebe	5,180	Safeway	3,712
CGU	5,933	Sainsbury	6,159
COLT Telecom	2,201	Schroders	427
Cable Wire	4,021	Scot & New	2,086
Cadbury	6,703	Scot Sthn Engy	2,171
Carlton Cms	5,090	Scot Power	3,941
Centrica	8,150	Securicor	1,358
Compass Gp	5,125	Svn Trent	1,029
Daily Mail A	364	Shell Trans	14,536
Diageo	14,159	Smiths Ind	1,177
Dixons Grp	2,568	SmKl Bch	8,925
EMI	825	Stagecoach	2,645
Gallaher	1,548	Std Chartd	2,680
Gen Elec	12,610	Sun Life	1,054
GKN	2,654	TeleWest	15,841
Glaxo Well	6,393	Tesco	26,305
Granada	1,817	Thames W	636
GUS	4,264	Tomkins	4,336
GRE	5,608	Unilever	5,115
Hanson	2,445	Utd News	934
ICI	3,275	Utd Utilities	2,750
Imperial Tob	2,920	Vodafone	9,719
HSBC	2,256	WPP	2,439
Halifax	6,385	Whitbread	1,522
Hays	3,086	Williams	2,193
Kingfisher	3,168	Woolwich	2,656
Ladbroke	6,515	Zeneca	4,197

WALL STREET

Costly extractions from the retired

Truly, there is no such thing as a free lunch. Higher output and consumption degrade our environment. Freedom breeds nuisance, tolerance nurses crime. Nice warm homes are great for pests and germs too. Free health and education sap work incentives because higher taxes are needed to fund them. Cheaper means-tested benefits are worse.

The gradual atomisation of the family into individual working and consuming units has boosted gross income per head. The labour force has grown bigger and more flexible, permitting faster growth without inflation. But there is a heavy financial price to pay.

Someone has to supply the services for money that were previously supplied unmeasured within the family. Cross subsidies within the family fade, so the state ends up paying much of the bill. A society with strong families can manage with low taxes. An individualistic one naturally goes with high taxes.

The only way round this is to pauperise those who do not work, chiefly the young, the old, the unfit, carers and the temporarily unemployed. This is the programme of the new rationalists who dominate modern political ideas.

A start has been made by withdrawing support from students and levying a poll tax for fees. Most students are impoverished and given unnatural incentives to take the highest paid job available or to emigrate on graduation.

This reform protects the higher education industry from market forces that would otherwise cut costs and reallocate resources to the most cost-effective courses and locations. It also helps the labour market by pushing students into taking low-paid, part-time jobs at unsocial hours. The drawback is that most students cannot immediately pay, so a loan system has been set up to defer payment until it can sensibly be made.

By far the biggest sitting target of non-workers is, however, retired folk. They can be attacked in two ways: by cutting their potential income and by withdrawing free services from them.

Gordon Brown struck the decisive opening blow of the campaign in his first Budget, when he extracted more than £5 billion a year from pension funds by withdrawing tax relief. In 50 years time, this extra tax should run at more than £15 billion in today's money.

In the early years, employers will make up most of the difference but by 2050, nearly all the extra Treasury revenue will be coming straight out of the pensions retired people have to live on. This is a significant transfer to workers.

By comparison, the funding issues argued over by the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care are modest. The total cost, on their projections, is destined to rise from



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

1.6 to 1.9 per cent of national income over the next 50 years. Various arms of the state provide £7billion a year out of today's £11 billion cost. Two-thirds is spent on the minority of recipients who live in residential or nursing homes.

Even so, the commission members could not agree. Ten concluded that healthcare should in future be free while board and lodging should be chargeable, with a means test. This would cost taxpayers £1.1 billion a year extra now, rising to perhaps £6 billion a year by 2050. This extra spending would save thousands of pensioners who had saved from having to sell their homes and become indigent. The Treasury hates the idea.

Two dissenters argue that free healthcare is an unaffordable gift to the better off and an incentive to demand more care. But they cannot agree among themselves. One proposes a four-year limit on charges for care. The average term in residential care is only two years but a quarter stay for more than four years. A limit on charges might make it feasible to insure commercially against the risk of needing full-time care, nearly one in three for older women.

Otherwise, insurance is unsuited to cover risks that are extremely common, costly and open-ended. Only a revival of some variant of whole life insurance, which goes to heirs if not claimed, might fit.

The other dissenter rejected even a four-year cut-off as an unjustifiable aid to the affluent and their heirs. Anyone whose resources are not exhausted by four years at £17,500 a year in a nursing home, is by definition well off. Geoffrey Robinson would have approved.

As in education, the argument over principles and funding obscures the economic issue. If an extra 20 per cent of those needing care in future are served at home rather than in an institution, the cost of long-term care will fall as a percentage of national income over the next 50 years.

Universal free healthcare could then be restored at no net cost to taxpayers, with the equivalent of a prescription charge to deter frivolous extra demand. Sadly, that is not the point. If the Government wanted older people to look after themselves, it would not have taxed away £15 billion a year of their future income in the Chancellor's raid on pension funds.

The object is to transfer resources from the retired. This could at least be done in a kindlier way less damaging to people's incentives to save. One way is to replicate the student loan scheme, though the dissenters reckon this too generous for the elderly. Any surplus of charges over the individual's income could be chalked up as an index-linked charge against their estate. Logically, charges should also be limited to the annuity value of the individual's estate when they come into care. For an 85-year-old woman, this would be a maximum 16 per cent of wealth a year.

All means-tested benefits are as foreign to an incentive-based society as low taxes are to an atomised one. As most of us hope to be old one day, we might just as well accept the implications of both.

Fine fragrance industry scents a new danger in the air

Carl Mortished analyses the trends that spell trouble to a business in decline

When did you last notice someone's perfume? Leave aside candlelit moments while you consider the question. Walk around your office. Try to remember your last journey in a crowded lift. Do your nostrils twitch at the distinctive memory of a wave of Chanel or Armani overpowering your senses?

Probably not. Cast your mind back ten or 12 years and your response might well have been different. Heavy scent has become socially unacceptable: even the mere presence of perfume or aftershave at arm's length is regarded as a bit "in your face".

The fine fragrance industry is in crisis. Sales are falling or static and discounting is rife. Last year, in Britain, sales of female fragrance plunged by almost 19 per cent and even male fragrances, the big growth market of the past five years, slipped by more than 5 per cent, causing the overall British fragrance market to shrink 14 per cent to £602 million.

Statistics from AC Nielsen, the market researcher, reveal that Christmas was a disaster for perfume. Sales of male fragrances fell from £106 million in the final two months of 1997 to £80 million in November and December 1998. Female scent suffered an even bigger shake-out with sales plummeting 46 per cent to £96 million.

What is going wrong? The answer is: almost everything and the slowdown in consumer spending is just the tip of the iceberg. Changing tastes, dress codes and working habits are part of the problem. Prestige fragrances are losing ground to cheaper, lighter scents and body sprays sold by mass market clothing retailers.



Liz Hurley promotes Estée Lauder at a time when cosmetics firms are finding it harder to profit from their perfumes

In the US, the world's largest fragrance market, a similar pattern emerges. Sales were flat last year, barely up 1 per cent, which means a decline in real terms. NPD Beauty Trends, which tracks department store sales, points to the intense competition. "Traditional outlets are losing ground to new competitors such as specialty stores, apparel specialty stores and the Internet."

Allan Mottus, editor of the *Informationist*, a US cosmetic trade publication, reckons that the industry is suffering from changing working habits and a rash of bad product launches. The perfume industry is marketing to a shrinking percentage of the public. "The biggest growth industry is the high-tech sector. Those people wear sweaters and khakis to work. People don't wear heavy perfume when they wear casual clothes."

Gender politics is also hurting the fragrance houses. Mr Mottus said: "Sexual harassment is an issue. People feel increasingly wary about wearing provocative perfume in the workplace."

But the real villains may be the fragrance houses themselves. With about 150 new perfume launches a year, they are digging their own graves. Launching a fragrance is expensive. According to Givenchy, a new product needs Fr500 million (£52 million) in sales, to be a winner. The French perfume industry is being forced to acclimatise to a world of mass retailing in hypermarkets which now account for more than half of the country's perfume sales. Instead of the cosy world of the local *parfumerie* with its glass cases, perfume is now piled high in gondolas at the end of supermarket aisles. From recommended retail prices, we have moved to discounting, the grey market of parallel imports and aggressive merchandisers who demand money upfront for prominent product display.

One perfume industry executive, Chantal Roos, of Beauté Prestige International, interviewed in *Les Echos*, the French financial newspaper, has highlighted the dangers: "The rate of launches is increasing, but most perfumes are indistinguishable and the consumer jumps from one to the other, attracted by the idea of novelty but remaining unconvinced. If your products are found everywhere, they lose their precious and exclusive quality."

Only yesterday, Asda proved her right, launching 70 per cent discounts on designer perfumes, such as Gucci, Chloé and Opium. Hitting back at the perfume houses who want to stop grey market discounting, Asda said: "The only thing that is exclusive about these perfumes is their price."

Meanwhile, the manufacturers scramble to find new smells to titillate jaded senses. Most of the world's perfume is designed not in laboratories in Paris or Provence but by vast chemical companies, like International Flavour & Fragrance, Givaudan, Firmenich and a subsidiary of ICI, Quest International. These are smell and taste manufacturers, and fine fragrance is a minor but high margin part of the business. Fragrances are used in detergent, cleaning products and air fresheners — Quest recently boasted a contract to add a smell to the Paris Metro. The biggest growth is in personal care — shampoo, soap and skincare products.

They analyse the chemical components of smells and manufacture them. Quest's plant in Kent is floor upon floor of vats containing some 6,000 individual smells. Fashion houses come to them with a brief to design a perfume and the expert perfumiers or "noses" make suggestions. Once agreed, the finished product is mixed from the ingredients and shipped out in drums. It represents just 10 per cent of the cost of an average bottle of perfume.

Research is big: walk into the lobby of Quest's factory in Kent and you will see a bank of screens and fragrance samples, inviting you to take part in a survey. The trouble is that smells are not universally appreciated — while pine may suggest cleanliness in Europe, the correct smell in Indonesia is jasmine. Quest spends millions of pounds on focus groups, trying to find what smells clean, sexy or exotic in São Paulo, as opposed to Sapporo. No surprise to learn that mango is boring in Djakarta but apple induces that dreamy faraway feel.

Bad news for perfume sales. What the fragrance houses and manufacturers want are blockbusters that will sell worldwide and go on selling for years to come. Quest and its rivals make no money designing the scent: their margin is on every steel drum of fragrance shipped. The more they ship, the better the return on the initial investment in research. A top perfumier could earn £500,000 a year, and Quest poached a few when it launched a campaign to gain market share five years ago.

Quest claims a record year in 1998, but will not break down its figures. However, the industry as a whole is not happy. IFF, the only quoted manufacturer, suffered a slide in sales in 1998, blaming the Asian crisis: profits, excluding special charges, are down for the second year running. Unilever recently revealed that Prestige, its fragrance arm, which markets CK and Elizabeth Arden, had a less than glorious year, but it refused to give details.

It would be foolish to write off the perfume industry. It is a past master at reinventing itself. But it faces a conundrum, chasing a younger more fickle market, knowing that the cost of each launch must be amortised over years of sales. "Young people have a lot more money and there is image awareness at a younger age," said David Roseveare, Quest's marketing director.

But where will the perfume industry find the new Chanel No 5s and Miss Diors. There was a time when a young woman would learn about perfume from her mother and wear the same brand throughout her life. Such brand loyalty is priceless, but what teenager today would be caught dead wearing Mummy's perfume?

Among the top fragrance brands in the US are Tommy and Tommy Girl, the name expressing the casual, friendly boy-next-door image that sells the product. It seems a shame that perfume has lost its exotic, almost dangerous cachet. It has become throwaway, a danger signal that the industry ignores at its peril.

Software to speed up hard budget decisions



Putting together departmental accounts and filing hefty travel expenses claims can be a complicated and frustrating process for most business managers.

However, two software products have been launched this week by QSP, the London-listed IT group, which aim to solve this problem. The first, aimed at departmental managers, is called Financial Collaborator. The second, aimed at all employees who regularly have to file large expenses claims, has the truly awful name of Extensity Business Travel Management Solutions.

QSP claims that Financial Collaborator is the first product of its kind to be put on the market. The software aims to make life simpler for managers by allowing them to fill in their budgets on a corporate intranet, instead of using a spreadsheet package such as Microsoft's Excel.

As soon as the budget is ready, the manager simply clicks an icon, and it can be accessed by his or her superior. This avoids the need to print out copies of budgets and send them to superiors in the internal mail, or, more commonly, having to e-mail spreadsheet files between departments.

Financial Collaborator costs about £300 per user, with QSP making the bold claim that the software usually pays for itself within 12 months. QSP says this is because it cuts costs in accounting departments, and dramatically speeds up the process of haggling over budgets that usually takes place within most companies.

Meanwhile, QSP's expenses product — launched in partnership with Extensity, the US company, — is designed to be used alongside Financial Collaborator. The product allows employees to file expenses claims directly on to a corporate intranet, bypassing the clumsy process of writing claims by hand, then sending them via internal post to the accounts department.

The software can ensure that employees buy travel tickets — or other goods and services — from preferred suppliers, to take advantage of corporate bulk-buying. It can also automatically authorise claims that are made within certain limits, and allows employees to file claims remotely, using a laptop computer.

Although the system is paperless, companies that require receipts to accompany all expenses claims can simply ask for them to be posted to the accounts department in an envelope, citing a reference number. Using this method, it is still possible to conduct random checks to make sure claims are genuine.

QSP claims that when products such as Financial Collaborator and Extensity Business Travel Management Solutions are used together they can speed up the often tedious process of budgeting, leaving time free for other more important matters.

Given the competitive nature of the accounting software market, however, it will not be long before another company claims to be able to do the same thing, better, for less money.

☐ UNIVERSE, the dance music promoter famous for its Tribal Gathering festivals, has signed a five-year sponsorship deal with Music Choice, the 50-channel subscription music service available via cable and satellite broadcasters throughout Europe. Under the deal, Universe will broadcast its own show consisting of two one-hour-long dance music mixes, and act as Music Choice's dance music promoter. Music Choice is owned by Sony, Warner, EMI and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

☐ COMPANIES will soon be able to make their corporate intranets look like so-called "Internet portals" such as Yahoo!, Excite and Infoseek, using one piece of software. The software, produced by Autonomy, the British technology company listed on the Easdaq stock exchange, sorts information from external and internal sources into categories, then automatically adds links to other related sites. The software, which can run on Windows NT and Unix computer systems, will cost about $50,000 (about £30,000), and can be personalised for individual employees.

CHRIS AYRES

To and Flo

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

ONG BENG SENG, the Singaporean property entrepreneur, and his wife, Christina, the fashion designer, have consistently denied suggestions that the Asian crisis has left them short of a bob or two. Yet the rumour that they are trying to sell their achingly fashionable London hotels, the Metropolitan and the Halkin, simply won't go away.

Now word reaches me that Mrs Ong, variously described as "the Queen of Bond Street" and "the Greta Garbo of fashion", has quietly disposed of another of her London properties. Albero & Grana restaurant in Sloane Avenue, recognised as the capital's finest Iberian eateries and an establishment beloved of "It girl" Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, has been sold to Groupe Flo, the French restaurateur, for conversion to its popular Café Flo concept.

Jeremy Simmons, from property agent Berkeley Simmons, declined to be drawn on the sale price, although the word on the street is that it was not much more than £500,000. Scarcely enough to keep Ms Palmer-Tomkinson in Prada handbags.



"Business is great — it's the only place I can have a fag"

THE William Hill debacle has left Warburg Dillon Read feeling rather bruised, and there is little doubt that its once-unimpeachable reputation has taken a severe battering. I was interested, therefore, to read the full-page ad in yesterday's FT promoting Warburgs as "an investment bank of global intelligence" which "thinks differently". A little too differently for Nomura's liking, I fear.

Hot stuff

A BRONZED Keith Oates, who has apparently spent a lot of time at his home in Monaco since his exit from Marks & Spencer, made an unexpected appearance at the *Retail Week* Awards dinner on Tuesday. He was sitting (where else?) at the table of Odgers, the headhunters.

Oates was diplomatically unwilling to discuss the events that led to his "early retirement" from M&S, but did admit to being rather chuffed by the amount of interest being shown in bringing him out of retirement. Other guests at the event thought it most likely he will end up working overseas. Most British companies seem to think he is a bit too hot to handle. Can't think why.

Potter's bar

JUST because you're chief executive, don't think you run the company. That seemed to be the message coming from David Potter, the redoubtable chairman of palmtop computer maker Psion, at yesterday's results presentation.

Potter, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Spock from *Star Trek*, conducted the presentation almost single-handedly while the company's new chief executive, David Levin, sat quietly in the background, looking ever so slightly peeved. When someone dared to raise the subject, Potter boomed: "This is my swansong." Pull the other one.

THE tears that have been seen welling in the eyes of Sir Reo Stakis since the company he founded accepted a £1.5 billion takeover from Ladbroke appear to have blinded him to those rather tiresome Stock Exchange formalities. Almost a month ago, a charitable trust controlled by Sir Reo offloaded half a million Stakis shares, reaping almost £800,000. It was three weeks before he got around to alerting the Exchange to the sales.

Good health

BILL BLAIR, the well-regarded biotech analyst who was a casualty of a recent round of sackings at Flemings, is to join the emerging healthcare team being assembled by Mungo Park and David Porter at Nomura International. Blair, who was based in Edinburgh, joins a team that already includes Erling Refsum, Stuart Rollason and Karsten Hipler.

Porter says Blair will be looking after "one or two slightly larger companies" along with existing Nomura clients such as Shield Diagnostics and Scotia. A lucky escape for Blair who, while casting around for a job, came perilously close to joining a PR firm.

DOMINIC WALSH



Builder joins flight from stock market

By Paul Armstrong

THE flight of small and mid-sized companies from the stock market gained further momentum yesterday with the announcement of a proposed £88 million management buyout of Wainhomes, the housebuilder.

Bill Ainscough, the Wainhomes chairman, who will end up with 71 per cent of the company if the deal succeeds, said that the move was the result of poor investor appetite for building companies.

The cash offer of 140p, which has been recommended by the independent directors of Wainhomes, represents a 22 per cent premium to the closing share price on Tuesday.

The offer is, though, somewhat less than the premium paid by venture capitalists for other quoted companies recently taken private.

Mr Ainscough, however, said that the relevant comparison in the building industry is to a company's net asset value. On this basis, the deal implies a premium of 30 per cent based on the net assets of Wainhomes at January 3.

The bid is being funded by the Bank of Scotland, which will emerge as Mr Ainscough's partner in Wainhomes, with a stake of 29 per cent.

Mr Ainscough said that irrevocable acceptances for 30 per cent of the stock had been received, including his 15 per cent stake.

Wainhomes yesterday announced a 13 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits, to £7.1 million. Shareholders who accept the offer will retain their entitlement to the 1.5p interim dividend.

Companies with small to medium-sized market capitalisations are arguing that they have rapidly become the forgotten constituents of stock markets around the world as managers of tracker funds focus on blue chip shares.

This is in stark contrast to the welcome that institutions were giving smaller stocks when Wainhomes was first listed in 1994.

Mr Ainscough said that Wainhomes had annual pre-tax profits of £6.5 million when it was floated at 170p a share.

He said that pre-tax profit this financial year was expected to reach £14 million, but the shares were trading at 138½p yesterday, up 23½p on the day.

"We have just been unable to generate sufficient investor interest in our shares," Mr Ainscough said. "We have had to question the benefits of being a listed company."

He said that the weak share price had also prevented Wainhomes from being able to raise funds for acquisitions.

Small cap plea for tax reform

WIDESPREAD tax reform is needed to end investors' growing discrimination against small public companies, an inquiry into the sector has found (Paul Armstrong writes).

The report, entitled *Tomorrow's Giants*, argues that individual investors hold the key to resolving the imbalance but says they need greater financial incentives to invest in these stocks.

It recommends reforms to capital gains tax, including a lower marginal rate or abolition for individuals investing in the sector. The report adds that tax concessions are responsible for fund management companies outgrowing the market.

Separately, Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham, has called on the Treasury to enhance incentives for companies to set up or convert on an employee share ownership basis.



Expecting growth this year: Philip Swinstead, chairman, left, with Paul Davies, chief executive

Bullish Parity rises 10%

SHARES in Parity, the IT consultancy group, broke the recent trend in the IT sector by rising 10 per cent to 727½p after the company produced strong results alongside a bullish trading statement (Chris Ayres writes).

The results allayed fears that the IT sector is heading for a sharp correction this summer, caused by large companies delaying IT projects until after the millennium.

Parity said 1998 pre-tax profits had risen 48 per cent to £20 million on sales of £290 million, up 44 per cent. Earnings per share rose 30 per cent to 27.44p. A final dividend of 4.4p, up from 3.4p, will be paid on July 1, bringing the payment for the year to 6.8p, up from 5.2p.

Philip Swinstead, the company's chairman, said the IT market remained strong, and that "well-managed companies should thrive" this year. He added: "We are winning good business across all of our international territories and expect further profitable growth."

Financial advisers criticised in survey

By Fran Littlewood

ONE in five financial advisers gives bad advice, recommending products that are expensive or inappropriate or that subsequently underperform according to the results of a Consumers' Association investigation released today.

The organisation sent out undercover researchers to test a cross-section of advice given by independent financial advisers (IFAs), advisers tied to companies, as well as accountants and solicitors.

In one of the worst instances of poor advice, an adviser gave a verdict after a consultation of just two minutes, picking an unsuitable productthat generated an immediate commission payment of more than £1,500.

The adviser in question, named as Richmonds Solicitors, based in Worksop, Notts, also failed to carry out a fact-find required by law to obtain details of the researcher's circumstances. The Consumers' Association has reported its findings to the Law Society. Richmonds said it has begun an internal investigation.

"We are concerned there are advisers who, despite the Financial Services Act, are still not following the rules," said Simon Barnes, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association's Money Research Group. He added that even when advisers did comply with regulations, many still gave incompetent advice.

The most widespread demonstration of incompetence came from advisers more interested in their commission than the quality of advice. Advisers tied to a particular financial company were some of the worst offenders. Where they outlined the right type of investment, many recommended poorly performing products because they were restricted to a limited company portfolio.

RJR hints at cigarette sell-off

From Oliver August in New York

RJR NABISCO has hinted that it will spin off its international cigarette business for about \$6 billion (£3.75 billion) in an attempt to thwart the takeover bid by Carl Icahn.

BAT and Philip Morris have been mentioned as potential buyers but anti-trust considerations could defy their ambitions to acquire the overseas rights to tobacco brands that include Camel.

RJR Nabisco is trying to fight off a bid by Mr Icahn, the corporate raider, to elect a hand-picked slate of directors to the board. Proxy votes for the board election at the annual meeting in May have to be filed by the end of next week.

Mr Icahn is attempting to throw out the existing board over its reluctance to spin off Nabisco, the 80 per cent-owned biscuits subsidiary. He has a 7.7 per cent stake in RJR and is now its biggest shareholder, a position that should almost certainly guarantee him a seat on the board.

Mr Icahn's assault on RJR's corporate structure is a resurrection of an earlier and long, drawn-out fight in 1995 and 1996. His first attempt to break up the company was voted down by RJR shareholders. This time, however, Mr Icahn may have a better chance of convincing shareholders that his strategy will boost the company's depressed share price.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SDN in pay-view link with ONdigital

SDN, the pay television venture that links United News and Media, cable group NTL and the Welsh Fourth Channel is launching a pay-per-view movie and sports service on digital terrestrial television later this year. The new service, which will have five channels at its disposal, is launching the service as a joint venture with ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial service launched in November. SDN was allocated a block of digital terrestrial frequencies, covering 90 per cent of the UK by the Independent Television Commission, but has not formally announced its plans until now.

Consumers will be able to get access to pay-per-view movies on the the new media platforms — satellite, cable and, soon, digital terrestrial. It is believed that SDN has not yet signed up digital pay-per-view rights with the Hollywood studios, but the pattern is that the studios are usually happy to negotiate with as many distribution outlets as possible.

Cheers for Heineken

HEINEKEN, the world's second largest brewer, reported a 29 per cent rise in 1998 net profit to 981 million guilders (£301 million), from 761 million guilders. The rise was attributed to a better product mix, higher sales volumes and favourable exchange rates. However, it gave warning that the outlook for the current year was uncertain, after a fall in Asian sales in late 1998. Total sales rose 2.3 per cent to 13.82 billion guilders from 13.51 billion guilders. Global beer sales rose 1.5 per cent.

Sun's Irish growth

SUN MICROSYSTEMS, the US computer company, plans to double the size of its European software centre in Dublin and hire a further 65 employees. The 40,000 sq ft expansion of the software engineering centre will help to serve a European market that accounts for 27 per cent of Sun's worldwide sales. The company said it was also considering building a new facility in Dublin. The existing facility, which employs 160 people, is similar to Sun's main engineering centre in California.

Jacobs races ahead

JACOBS HOLDINGS, the company with interests in transport, shipping and property, enjoyed a rise in its 1998 pre-tax profits to £8.3 million, from £3 million, helped by a £1.4 million exceptional profit from the sale of its investment in American Port Services. Operating profits rose by 69 per cent, to £9.1 million, on turnover that rose 47 per cent, to £86.9 million. A 1.9p final dividend lifts the total to 2.45p, from 2.25p. Adjusted earnings per share rose to 5.2p, from 2.9p.

Pittards tumbles 64%

PITTARDS, the leather goods group, said that earnings are picking up and should continue to do so this year, after reporting a 64 per cent slide in pre-tax profit in 1998. Pre-tax profits for the year came in at £1.01 million, with the vast majority of that coming in the second half, on sales that fell from £101 million to £74 million after an international decline in demand for footwear and leisure goods. The dividend for the year remains at 3.5p. The shares perked up 3p to 32½p.

Hawtal's US disposal

HAWTAL WHITING, the automotive engineering design group whose shares have slid dramatically over the past four years, has sold its US staff placement business for up to £5 million, twice Hawtal's stock market capitalisation. The US business has been sold to Rapid Design Services for £3.7 million, plus £1.3 million due in a year's time subject to performance. Hawtal shares jumped 5p to 26½p yesterday. They have fallen from 305p in 1995 and from a 12-month high of 87½p.

ACCOUNTANCY

Creating serial entrepreneurs

Loughlin Hickey encourages the Chancellor to adopt new measures to help smaller quoted companies

There are clear signs that the Government wishes to be seen as the champion of the entrepreneur and as encouraging the growth of business. But will the Chancellor take the opportunity in next week's Budget to do what is necessary and redefine "entrepreneur"?

Much emphasis so far has been directed on start-up companies in the very earliest stages of their development: unquoted companies and AIM companies, for example, attract reliefs and this is clearly welcome.

But this ignores the smaller quoted companies (SQCs) that make up the bulk of the quoted companies on the London Stock Exchange. CISCO, the SQC representative body, says SQCs represent 85 per cent of UK quoted companies and contribute almost £10 billion in tax revenues. Yet it is these firms that are struggling under the weight of the obligations of public ownership with precious few of the benefits.

A study has recently given warning that 800 companies should be delisted — there is simply no liquidity in their shares. These companies employ a million people yet it appears that the only option open to them is being bought out by larger plcs or being taken back into private hands. It would appear there is a much greater equity gap in the UK than previously thought.

Quite simply we need a much wider definition of entrepreneurship. The present measures are inappropriate — the £15 million asset limit for Enterprise Investment Scheme income tax and capital gains deferral has no direct relevance to need for equity.

In recent government-sponsored reports, there is the repeated theme of encouraging "serial" entrepreneurship. If a major plank of policy is to encourage equity investment, so providing liquidity and access to funds for expansion, there should be a coherent package of measures that supports this.

A first step is to encourage direct share ownership by individuals. The impact of the structural change to capital gains through the introduction of taper relief is to discourage "serial" investment because taper relief encourages long-term holding. These two objectives could be combined by "pooling" certain types of investment and treating them as one asset for capital gains tax purposes.

In other words, SQCs should be seen as a class of investment that investors can switch between without losing CGT taper relief. This would mean that provided the same type of asset were held, the taper relief would apply as if the asset were held throughout the investment period. Disposals made where the proceeds were reinvested in those type of assets would not be chargeable events. It would assist further if that reinvestment could be by way of purchase of shares as well as share subscription.

Secondly, it would help to widen the definition of companies that can benefit from reliefs to growing companies to encompass all companies outside the FTSE 350.



Loughlin Hickey says current measures are inappropriate

As the focus of large investors turns to the largest companies there is a balance towards burden rather than reward for the SQCs. In a recent DTI-sponsored report on dialogue between SQCs and fund managers, Stephen Byers, Trade Secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, president of CISCO, pointed out that some of these SQCs will be the international blue chip success stories of tomorrow.

It would be a tragedy if these companies gave up the fight of being part of a vibrant middle market. This is a vital bridge both for unquoted companies that wish to join their ranks and provides the springboard to refresh the ranks of the larger quoted companies.

Finally, the Government should continue to encourage alternative sources of equity. The recent consultation on tax reliefs for corporate venturing should be encouraged so that larger corporates might become serial entrepreneurs.

Tony Blair, in his foreword to the recent White Paper *Our Competitive Future*, included Government in his call to do much more to foster a new entrepreneurial spirit in the UK. The Chancellor next week has a golden chance to carry out that pledge.

Loughlin Hickey is a partner in KPMG Tax Advisers

The Budget bodgers who just won't listen

BUDGETS tend to divide neatly into two. There are the measures that are deemed to affect everyone, the traditional "beer, fags and tuppence on income tax" headline; and there are the other measures dealing with the more obscure parts of the tax system, which indirectly affect everyone but are so complex that they cannot be reduced to a popular headline. Governments and Chancellors of the Exchequer love the first category. It brings them, they hope, glory and a boost in the polls. But by and large they increasingly couldn't care less about the second category.

They want to block a loophole here, or be seen to be boosting small business there. But they lack the informed judgment to make decisions that are effective in the long term. In recent years they have become Budget bodgers when it comes to complex tax matters.

What is worse is that, while lacking the expertise themselves, they have started, like all true incompetents, to refuse to listen to expert advice, wherever it comes from. It would be far better, as John Whiting, of PricewaterhouseCoopers, would suggest, if the Chancellor made one statement about the headline stuff and then put the detailed measures out to serious consultation and debate.

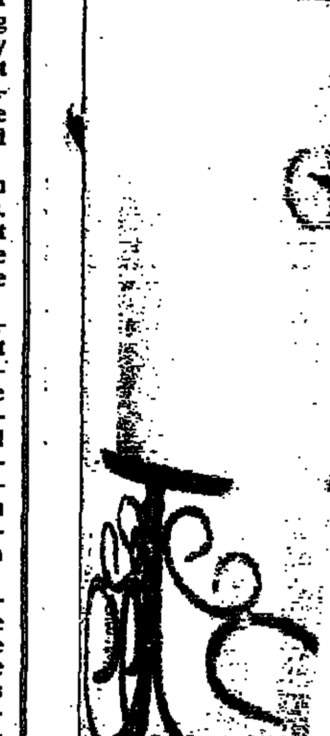
But such a system would require governments to listen to the arguments. At present they don't bother. As one weary senior member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation put it: "Why do we bother making representations pointing out the problems. No one is listening." The process of parliamentary scrutiny of complex financial or tax legislation is a sham. The lengthy examination of last year's Finance Bill produced just two new clauses and a dozen typographical changes. The system of expert MPs going through complex legislation and smoothing out the howlers and the pitfalls simply doesn't exist.

A good example is the recent scrutiny of the legislation to introduce the Working Families Tax Credit. The Standing Committee of 25 MPs spent more than 12 hours diligently going through it, clause by clause. Dozens of substantive amendments were proposed reflecting widespread concerns from MPs, professional bodies and business that this new welfare benefit contained serious practical flaws.

The end result shows just how much the Government is prepared to listen to the wealth of expert opinion and experience on hand. Two corrections were made — one clause was re-numbered and an apostrophe was added. It is laughable.

This was what Eric Pickles, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, had to say during the last session: "The use of secondary legislation has increased. Committees do not have the opportunity to affect that legislation. About 1,600 statutory instruments were passed by the House last year. Few received the scrutiny that they should have received. It matters not a jot or tittle if opposition members, or even government members, have worries that the statutory instrument may be fundamentally flawed, because committees cannot change it; they must take it or leave it."

The results of such ignorance and incompetence are inevitable, as Mr Pickles went on to detail. "A couple of weeks after a committee has finished one gets a nice little note saying: 'We have now discovered that Clause 37 has proved to be inadequate and is creating a problem that was unforeseen at the time'." To which Mr Pickles's response is forthright. "Was it heck unforeseen at the time."



ROBERT BRUCE

This refusal to listen to anyone who might be expert in the subject, if only to limit the amount of egg that will be spread over the Government's face later, is not simply a feature of the current administration. It has been growing over several years. The shambles of the Child Support Agency came about via the same route.

The end result, as Mr Pickles points out, is simple. "All the clauses of the Bill might as well be one clause saying that the Government can do what they want. It will affect the liberty, the rights and purse or wallet of our electors. They expect us to give the Bill some scrutiny."

It is not as though the practical consequences of this attitude of ignoring consultation have no dire political consequences. When the Government tinkered with tax credits on dividends last year it cannot have realised that by doing so it was also cutting the income of 300,000 pensioners by 20 per cent.

The last words in the Standing Committee fell to Steve Webb, MP for Northavon, and someone who, after nine years of working for the Institute for Fiscal Studies, knows his stuff. "The triumphant moment was the addition of that apostrophe," he said. He wasn't sure whether he was laughing or crying.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Trusting in the Internet

THERE are those who argue that accountants and the Internet should keep well apart. But this week the three chartered accountancy institutes of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland begged to differ. They signed an exclusive deal with their American counterpart to market a thing called WebTrust.

This is a sign that appears on websites to show potential customers that chartered accountants have given a particular company a good going over and that their transactions with it are likely to be secure, private and that they will get what they had ordered.

So confident were the institutes that they gave some examples of sites in America where WebTrust could be viewed. One of these was the intriguingly named www.rocketroger. This turned out to be the site associated with Roger Clemens, one of the finest of baseball pitchers and one of the longest-standing of players for the Boston Red Sox.

In normal circumstances it doubtless sells replica Roger Clemens kit. But log on now and you just get one message. "Roger Clemens traded to the Yankees," it reads. No sign of a WebTrust logo at all.

Chiltern hundreds

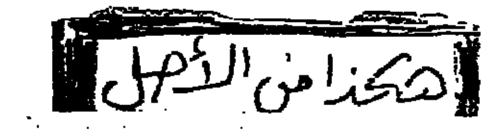
THIS is the week when the name of Moores Rowland vanishes as it merges into BDO Stoy Hayward. But a phoenix is at hand. The international network to which they used to belong is called Moores Rowland International. And it was obviously short of a UK partner as a result. So what has MRI International done? It has linked up with the Chiltern Group, the fast-growing independent tax consultancy.

Why? Because Chiltern has become the refuge over the past few years for literally dozens of disaffected Moores Rowland partners and managers. Exiles they may be but Moores Rowland lives on.

Page turner

YOU might have thought that the idea of the US Institute of Management Accountants publishing a magazine called *Management Accounting* had a certain logic to it. But the institute has decided that this is no longer on. From this month the publication will become a little-seen scholarly quarterly. And in its place the institute's monthly read will be the much more trendy *Strategic Finance*.

ROBERT BRUCE



Psion to hold fundamental business review

By Chris Ayres

PSION, the palmtop computer manufacturer, is to undertake a fundamental review of its business before the summer and gave warning that profits would be hit by further investment in its Symbian joint venture.

Shares of the company — which more than quadrupled in value after the creation of Symbian, the mobile phone handset venture with Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola — closed last night at 737½p down 23½p.

Symbian aims to make Psion's Epoc operating system the world standard for so-called "third generation" mobile phones — which will be able to access the Internet and send e-mails — putting it in direct competition with Microsoft, which has identical plans for its Windows CE software. Symbian also faces competition from IT groups such as 3Com, Sun Microsystems and Oracle.

It is thought that Psion's review could see the sale of its troubled Dacom subsidiary, which makes modems for laptop computers. David Potter, the company's chairman, refused to comment but admitted that the company needed "focus". He also said Psion was in a strong position to make acquisitions, take part in further joint ventures and concentrate more on corporate markets.

Mr Potter said a flotation of Symbian within two to three years was a possibility. However, he added that Psion may also consider selling its stake in Symbian, as Psion would benefit from royalties on its software.

Urging the City to concentrate on the long-term prospects for Psion, he said Microsoft's Windows CE software had so far failed to gain significant market share, although he admitted that 3Com's Palm Pilot products had "gained wide acceptance" at the lower end of the market.

Psion's results for 1998, published yesterday, showed only a 4 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £11.9 million, excluding a one-off gain of £11.4 million from the creation of Symbian. Sales rose 13 per cent to £159.9 million, and earnings per share were up 6 per cent to 10.93p. A final dividend of 2p (1.8p) will be paid on May 14, bringing the total payment for the year to 2.8p (2.5p).

Psion repeated warnings that Dacom would be hit by rapidly changing market conditions. It also said that its computer division — which produces the handheld personal organisers for which the company is famous — saw sales slump 16 per cent.

City Diary, page 31

Wates to narrow NAV

Wates City of London Properties, yesterday became the latest property company to signal distress at its share price performance and state its intention to sell investments in a bid to narrow the discount to net asset value.

The company reported pre-tax profits for 1998 up to £9.1 million from £6.3 million while its net asset value rose from 104.4p to per share to 115.5p. The shares yesterday traded at 72p. A dividend for the year of 0.4p is being paid.

ScotEq on the up

Scottish Equitable, the pension provider owned by the Aegon, the Dutch-based international insurer, said pre-tax profits in its UK operations rose by 23 per cent last year to £70 million. Total premium income in 1998 rose 23 per cent to £2.7 billion with annualised premium income up by 19 per cent.

Atkins contract

WS Atkins, the technology consultancy, has been brought in to check the Year 2000 debugging verification programme in the telecoms industry. Oftel, the telecoms watchdog, wants WS Atkins to verify the £500 million assessment programme. Its findings will be published at the end of next month.

Antisoma trial

Antisoma, the London cancer therapy firm that recently floated on Easdaq, has received approval to begin a phase II trial of its lead product for patients suffering from gastric cancer, a common and aggressive form of the disease.



Eddie Marchbanks, chairman and chief executive of Photobition Group, the graphics display company, which intends to spend up to £20 million on a US acquisition by June. Photobition's only US graphics business is in New York and it says clients want a nationwide service. Group pre-tax interim profits rose 90 per cent, to £4.6 million. The dividend is 0.65p (0.6p)

Setback for Britannic as life value falls £31m

By Gavin Lumsden

SHARES in Britannic Assurance, the home service insurer, fell 7 per cent to £10.68 yesterday after the company shocked the City with a sharp fall in the value of its business.

The company, based in Birmingham, revealed that the embedded value of its long-term life insurance business had fallen from £438.2 million to £407.1 million during 1998, surprising most analysts who had forecast growth in this key valuation figure.

Analysts blamed several factors for the £31 million decrease but top of the list was Britannic's decision to double its provisions for pensions mis-selling to £300 million.

Brian Shaw, chief executive, said the extra £150 million would go towards compensating victims identified in the second phase of the company's pensions review. However, he admitted the figure could rise later this year.

Of greater significance for shareholders, however, was the dramatic change in Britannic's investment fortunes. Following 22 per cent investment returns in 1997, the City was disappointed when the company only returned 9 per cent on its investments last year, knocking £45 million from shareholders' profits last year.

Britannic also revealed it had changed the interest rate assumptions it was using to forecast investment returns in the future. By adjusting its actuarial calculations to take account of falling gilt yields Britannic knocked a £75.9 million hole in shareholders' achieved profits.

Britannic's sensitivity to falling interest rates took the City by surprise. Britannic is strongly capitalised and takes pride in being able to invest more of its money in the stock market than rival insurers. However, no other insurer has had to make this level of adjustment during the latest round of annual results.

Analysts said the value of the existing business — the embedded value — was more significant with Britannic than with other insurers as its rate of new business growth has been low in recent years.

However, after two years of reorganising its sales force, Britannic does appear to be recovering on this front. Excluding rebated DSS pensions, new business rose 14.9 per cent to £52.9 million, while pre-tax operating profit rose 8.8 per cent to £158.7 million.

In a break from tradition, the company is also beginning to target independent financial advisers to sell its Portfolio Bond.

With £1 billion of cash to spare, Britannic is keen to snap up a mutual insurer. After failing to buy NPI last year, it is believed to be looking for other targets such as Scottish Life or Scottish Provident.

Aerospace group accounts delayed

From A Correspondent in Paris

A DECISION by the French Government to delay approval of Aerospatiale's 1998 accounts has led to accusations that Lagardère, the industrial conglomerate, was attempting to reduce the cost of its stake in the aerospace group that is due to be partially privatised.

The accounts were due to be approved at a board meeting on Tuesday, but were taken off the agenda at the last minute.

Yesterday Aerospatiale said the Government, the majority shareholder, had asked for more time to examine the accounts, which had been completed only on Sunday and that the delay was technical.

Les Echos, the newspaper, yesterday suggested the examination of the accounts had been delayed at the request of Lagardère, which is to become the biggest single shareholder in the new Aerospatiale. Lagardère denied the allegation.

Lagardère will hold a 33 per cent stake in the fifth-biggest European civil and military aerospace group, paying with its Matra unit plus a maximum cash payment of €300 million (£206 million).

If the company significantly outperforms the stock market index over two years, Lagardère will pay just £91 million.

The Paris bourse appeared to support this theory, with Lagardère shares among the sharpest gainers, rising 2.16 per cent to €33.10.

Aerospatiale is to be partially privatised through a merger with Lagardère's Matra Hautes Technologies subsidiary as part of efforts to consolidate the French defence industry ahead of the planned creation of a pan-European defence and aeronautics group.

Denmark bus deal for Arriva

By Fraser Nelson

THE rush by UK bus groups to buy newly privatised counterparts in northern Europe continued yesterday as Arriva agreed to pay £13.7 million for a leading Danish operator.

Buying Bus Danmark gives Arriva 18 per cent of the market in Denmark and puts it in competition in southern Sweden, where Bus Danmark also operates, with the UK's Stagecoach and its Swebus arm.

Shares in Arriva fell 5p to 386½p on fear that it may have overpaid for Bus Danmark, which made 1998 profits of £2.8 million on sales of £84.9 million. Its 3.2 per cent profit margin is far below Arriva's UK average of 13.8 per cent. Arriva said this was typical for a newly privatised company.

In The Netherlands, Arriva is likely to be joined by its UK rival Go-Ahead. Go-Ahead said that, of the eight Dutch bus units, Arriva had bought two in the north, and Go-Ahead was viewing the rest. Arriva cannot bid against Go-Ahead in the south because of its fifth of the market through the Veonn and Hanze units.

Wilson Bowden cautious

By Robert Cole

WILSON BOWDEN, the housebuilder, remains cautious about the outlook for its sector despite securing a 10 per cent increase in 1998 on the average price at which it sells houses.

Some of the rise in average prices came as Wilson built more homes in the South, where property prices are higher. But the company also recorded a 22 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits.

The company built 3,287 homes last year, up from 3,007 in 1997. Most of its homes are detached three, four or five-bedroomed houses.

Headline pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 rose 32 per cent to £88.5 million but this figure was inflated by a one-off pension refund from the closure of an executive scheme.

Adjusted earnings per share were 61.3p against 48.7p. The final dividend is 11p, meaning that the total for the year is up 20 per cent to 15p.

Tempus, page 30

Byers warning to power companies

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

POWER companies yesterday came under renewed pressure from the Government to cut the high prices they charge to low-income and pre-payment customers.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the electricity industry last night: "The gap between pre-payment meter (PPM) tariffs and direct debit tariffs could become unacceptably high. Those on PPMs already pay significantly more for electricity (9 per cent) and gas (14 per cent) than those who pay by direct debit."

In his first speech to the industry, Mr Byers repeated government plans to force utility regulators to consider the needs of low-income customers and the sick in their guidelines to companies. This will come in the Utility Regulation Bill, which will also give ministers the power to set social and environmental objectives for the regulators.

Separately, the Gas Consumers Council gave warning that competitive companies were tightening their debt management and cutting more customers off supply. Last year 100,000 more households were fitted with PPMs, the first method usually used by gas companies to tackle poor payers.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income #	325.34	346.09	+ 2.23	3.21
UK Growth	123.19	131.04	+ 0.57	1.18
Ecology	124.77	132.73	- 0.52	0.32
European	307.94	327.24	- 1.57	0.19
Far Eastern	304.80	324.10	+ 1.00	
UK Special Sits	75.16	80.16	+ 0.27	0.25
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.61	64.64	+ 0.02	
High Income #	70.01	74.68	+ 0.67	4.02
Financial Opps	79.56	84.85	+ 0.34	0.72
Growth & Income #	57.48	61.30	+ 0.01	2.12
Global Opps	56.57	60.33†	- 0.13	0.79

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	311.50	329.30†	- 2.60	2.01
UK Equity #	82.60	87.40	+ 0.50	3.19
-do- Accum #	244.10	258.20	+ 1.30	3.19
UK Growth	1612.70	1705.40	+10.50	1.47
-do- Accum	1849.00	1955.30	+12.00	1.47

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 201 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	164.03	174.49	+ 0.41	0.22

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 556 8000

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income #	419.85	446.65	+ 0.17	4.45
Eur Growth	148.42	157.89		0.50
Inc & Growth #	104.72	111.40	+ 1.01	2.92
Smaller Cos	120.57	128.27	+ 0.41	1.52
Ever Spec Sit Inc	58.60	62.34	- 0.05	2.33
Ever Spec Sit Acc	63.19	67.22	- 0.07	2.33
Pension Growth	57.90	61.60	- 0.04	1.43

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Dealing: 0870 6066408

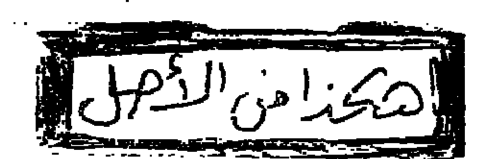
Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Cap	612.00	649.30†	+ 4.10	1.31
UK Inc/Gth #	650.00	689.60†	- 4.50	3.13

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	64.28	67.53	- 0.10	2.65
Intl Equity Growth	114.79	121.78	+ 0.07	0.35
N Amer Growth	218.59	231.81†	- 2.38	0.26
Special Sits Growth	40.67	43.26†	+ 0.15	1.17
UK Growth	664.86	707.29	+ 2.36	1.55
-do- Accum	956.14	1017.18	+ 3.38	1.55

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1562.90	1586.90†	...	2.90
Income #	1288.00	1309.40†		3.90

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD



Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

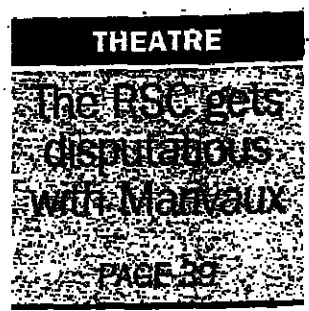
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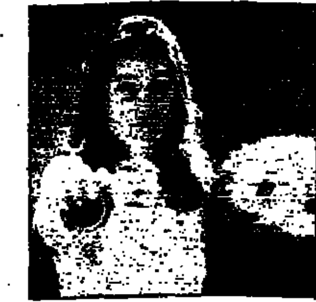


FILM
Hitchcock's 39 Steps goes back on screen
PAGE 37

THE TIMES
ARTS

THEATRE
The RSC gets disputatious with Marivaux
PAGE 39





CINEMA: When Elia Kazan receives his Oscar this month he will be greeted by boos. **Benedict Nightingale** finds out why

Legacy of a Hollywood witchhunt



Connections: Elia Kazan and Marlon Brando on the set of *On the Waterfront*, based on the novel by Budd Schulberg, who also testified to the HUAC

Don't be surprised if later this month the Academy Award ceremonies are picketed by old men and women enraged that an 89-year-old director is receiving an honorary Oscar for his creative achievements. No, Elia Kazan is not a war criminal but some people have never forgiven him for publicly betraying friends and colleagues back in 1952, at the height of the McCarthy persecutions. To them, he is a Cold War criminal.

How could Kazan, whose movies range from *On the Waterfront* to *East of Eden* and whose stage productions include the premieres of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Tennessee Williams's *Streetcar Named Desire*, have ended up being thanked by a leading McCarthyite for "bringing the attention of the American people to the machinations of the Communist conspiracy for world domination"? And how was it that, thanks to scores of similar denunciations, well over 500 people were barred from doing film or television work, among them Paul Robeson, Arthur Miller, Lilian Hellman, Dashiell Hammett, Zero Mostel, Joseph Losey, Jules Dassin, Sam Wanamaker, Larry Adler and Carl Foreman?

Amazing though it must seem to younger generations, these questions still dog the American psyche. Much of the damage was done before Joseph McCarthy, who in any case was more concerned with the 205 Communists he claimed were working for the State Department, entered the Senate. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) had been set up in 1934, largely to investigate Nazi propaganda, but soon acquired its lasting right-wing tilt. In 1938 its cabal of anti-Roosevelt Republicans fatally wounded the Federal Theatre Project, a network of companies akin to an American national theatre — at one point in the inquisition asking its director if Christopher Marlowe was a Communist and if "Mr Euripides was guilty of teaching class consciousness".

> ‘Kazan is not a war criminal, but to those he betrayed he is a Cold War criminal’

Given Stalin's territorial predations, it is not surprising that after the Second World War such men found it ever easier to exploit American terrors of the Enemy Within. In 1947 HUAC took on Hollywood, quizzing a slippery Brecht (who denied CP membership and said he "thought I am certain" he had not attended Communist meetings in America), getting staunch support from Ronald Reagan, Gary Cooper and Walt Disney (who feared that radical screenwriters might subvert Mickey Mouse) and destroying the careers of their first important "unfriendly" witnesses, the so-called Hollywood Ten.

They put up a fierce fight, Albert Maltz comparing the HUAC chairman J. Parnell Thomas and his notoriously anti-Semitic sidekick, John Rankin, with Goebbels and Himmler. But their attempts to hide behind the First Amendment, which protects free speech and association, did not prevent them being cited for contempt and imprisoned for terms of up to a year. Ring Lardner Jr actually ended up in a cell near Thomas, who served time for financial wrongdoing.

It was the start of what Lillian Hellman, in the title of a famous book, called *Scoundrel Time*. Almost all of those whom folly or idealism had driven into the CP in the 1930s had left it; but, prodded by the American Legion and other vigilante groups, the movie producers set up a blacklist for those even suspected of Communist sympathies. To be subpoenaed by HUAC was to be suspended or fired and to testify was to face choices that were horribly clear by the time Kazan made his "friendly" appearance.

If you "took the fifth", meaning the amendment against self-incrimination, you would lose any chance of future employment. If you didn't and atoned for your former radicalism by "naming names", you could resume your career. If you didn't take the fifth yet refused to name names, you might go to prison for contempt, as Dashiell Hammett and others were to do.

In 1951 an obscure writer called Martin Berkeley happily named 162 names, and others less willingly followed: among them, the actors Sterling Hayden and Lee J. Cobb, the writers Clifford Odets and Budd Schulberg, and, maybe because he feared his homosexuality might otherwise be publicly revealed, the choreographer Jerome Robbins.

Yet many were more robust. The actor Lionel Stander said, yes, he would name un-American subversives, and made it clear he meant HUAC. Paul Robeson, whose income had fallen from £105,000 to £2,000 after his naming, indignantly refused to denounce a Soviet state where "I felt for the first time like a full human being". A faux-naive Zero Mostel lured a committee member into declaring that, yes, his mimicry of a butterfly might "contribute directly to the propaganda effort of the Communist Party".

So why did Kazan publicly promise HUAC to do "anything you consider necessary or valuable to help"? Why did he name 11 names, among them one of America's great Lears, Morris Carnovsky, and the actor J. Edward Bromberg, who was hauled before HUAC against his doctor's orders and died soon afterwards? In an ad in *The New York Times* Kazan, who had belonged to the party between 1934 and 1936, claimed to be an honest liberal who felt that secrecy gave succour to Communists engaged on "a dangerous and alien conspiracy" against the United States.

Hellman called this "pious shit" and many others thought he was concerned only with a career he could anyway have perpetuated on Broadway, where blacklisting was less effective than in film, radio and television. But his great friend Arthur Miller, who thought HUAC "vile", ended up not only forgiving him but letting him direct the autobiographical *After the Fall*, in which a lightly disguised Kazan appals the protagonist by naming names. "To be barred from his metier would for him be a nightmarish overturning of the Earth itself," explained Miller later. "He always said he came from survivors and the job was to survive."

Miller himself behaved very differently at his hearing. A venomous press campaign had already led to his being dropped as the writer of a film about New York street youth. He had upset HUAC with *The Crucible*, which pointedly involved the 17th-century Salem witchhunts and was one of the very few provocative plays to emerge from an era where the arts understandably became defensive and bland.

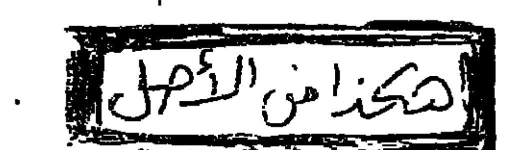
Like Hellman, who told HUAC she would not "cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions", Miller was candid about his radical past but refused to name names. His sentence for contempt — a $500 fine and a suspended 30-day jail sentence — was overturned on appeal.

This was 1957, by when McCarthy had fallen and HUAC was beginning to weary the public and worry even its conservative supporters. Blacklisting had been shown to be casual or arbitrary. The actress Martha Scott was mistaken for Hazel Scott and denied work; Jean Muir was fired from her television show after sending a congratulatory telegram to Stanislavsky.

There had been terrible publicity in Europe, where many banned writers fled, often disguising their names when they had a film credit. Pierre Boulle, who won an Oscar for his screenplay of *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, was actually Carl Foreman. Robert Rich, honoured for *The Brave One*, was Dalton Trumbo who famously typed his scripts in the bath at night. The Great Fear was no Stalinist terror, but it served Moscow's propaganda by making "free" America look hypocritical and repressive. It thwarted creativity, impoverished families, destroyed friendships, made cowards of respected men and left a bitterness that recently had Arthur Laurents, the composer of *West Side Story*, denouncing Robbins and Kazan as "evil".

So can you say anything positive about it? Yes, this.

England got most of the exiles, and some of them stayed. Would Losey have made *The Servant*, or Adler blown his harmonica in *Genevieve*, or Wanamaker have built his marvellous replica of Shakespeare's Globe, if McCarthyism had not chased them from their homeland? Probably not.





Things go lumpy in the night

NEW MOVIES: Oprah Winfrey shines, but *Beloved* wavers uneasily between poltergeists and polemic, says **James Christopher**



Paul D (Danny Glover) and the redoubtable Sethe (Oprah Winfrey) snatch a moment of happiness amid all the nasty goings-on in the worthy, lengthy and disappointing *Beloved*

Beloved
Warner Village West End 15, 171 mins
Oprah Winfrey in flabby epic about the price of freedom

Festen
Curzon Soho 15, 106 mins
Biting, black Danish comedy

Kini & Adams
NFT, 93 mins
Zimbabwe buddies have heads turned by money

The 39 Steps
Barbican U, 86 mins
John Buchan's ripping yarn magnificently hijacked by Hitchcock

The opening seconds of Jonathan Demme's **Beloved** are like something out of *The Amityville Horror*. A mirror spookily smashes, doors slam violently of their own accord, and Sethe's family dog is slung against the kitchen wall with such force that one of its eyes pops out. There's a poltergeist at play in Oprah Winfrey's ramshackle house in Ohio, 1865. But the talkshow hostess doesn't turn a hair as she picks up the bloody marble in her fingers and deftly slots it back into the dog's eye socket.

This is a gripping opening, but a misleading piece of scene-setting. Not because Winfrey is on the receiving end of a slice of misery no less wild or contrived than any in her chat shows, but because Demme's film shifts uneasily between ghost story, horrific tale of survival and meditation on blacks trying to scrape a dismal living in the brave new world of freedom. It's a noble tilt at Toni Morrison's complex Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. There are stunning period visuals and harrowing, sepia-tinted flashbacks. But the film is overlong, frequently laboured and ultimately too enamoured of its own lavish camerawork to engage us where it really matters: the heart.

Surprisingly, the performances, notably Winfrey's as Sethe, the proud Southern matriarch, could hardly be bettered. Winfrey spent nearly a decade plotting to play this role and she does it with a gritty, soul-baring realism that's impossible to fault. Despite the memories of lynch mobs that claimed her family, Sethe refuses to leave her haunted house and festers behind an accusing stare and heavy jowls. Her wary daughter, Denver (Kimberly Elise), can barely step beyond the front porch. And the superstitious locals treat them like lepers.

Stakes are duly raised when Paul D (Danny Glover), a grizzled family friend, tramps back into Sethe's life after 18 bruising years on the road. Falling into bed with Sethe, he provokes a supernatural frenzy that would send most people screaming to the hills. As they prise old secrets from each other, the house rattles like a skeleton closet, the kitchen table does its best to bisect Glover, and Thandie Newton's utterly weird waif, Beloved, crawls out of a nearby swamp in a pristine Victorian dress and plonks herself down for supper. She speaks with a guttural male voice and behaves like a damaged infant. Sethe promptly adopts her.

"There's something funny about that girl," mutters Glover, watching the voluptuous zombie cram huge wedges of gingerbread into her mouth. If it wasn't for Newton's spellbinding performance, all big black eyes and slack jaw, this comical failure to spot the poltergeist at two paces would be utterly corny.

As it is, the story congeals like bad blood. Beloved rapidly mutates from ungovernable stepdaughter into avenging figure of hate as the dreadful truth about her murder, and Sethe's guilt, begins to dawn on Glover.

Demme tries to read the film into the actors' faces, but everywhere his make-up department subverts him. The unsettling close-ups that squeeze every emotional ounce from Winfrey's operatic stares, Glover's troubled squint and Newton's blank looks end up as a sweepstake of who's got the worst teeth.

The grainy memories of Sethe's desperate measures to prevent her young family from being enslaved are beautifully shot, but constipate the film. As we grind towards the third hour, we are so battered by images of brutality that they cease to have much impact. This is a hardworking, scrupulously principled film, but it takes what feels like centuries to overstate the obvious unfairness of slavery, and the even more obvious unfairness of being black.

In a week heaving with ghosts, guilt and dysfunction, **Festen** (Danish for "celebration") is out there in a class of its own. The 29-year-old Thomas Vinterberg's biting, black satire is the *Spinal Tap* of family reunions. Grotesque, ghastly and extremely funny, the film charts the sixtieth birthday party of the forbidding owner of an upmarket country hotel. With its shaky camera angles, natural lighting and abrasive documentary-style techniques, it looks as if it's been shot from Roger Cook's briefcase.

The effect is startlingly fresh and deliciously voyeuristic. The grown-up children, the manic-depressive uncles and crusty grandparents arrive packing their problems like double-barrelled shotguns. Michael (Thomas Bo Larsen), the unhinged, out-of-favour youngest brother, sings Nazi songs and takes swings at his wife. Helene, the flaky, alcoholic oldest sister, finds her young sister's suicide note pinned to a lampshade. But it's the eldest brother, Christian (Ulrich Thomsen), seemingly the most sensible of all and still mourning the death of his twin, who drops the bombshells.

Before the main course is finished he's already been manhandled out of the dining room at least twice, notably for standing up and toasting his father for sexually abusing both himself and his dead sister when they were young. The grim determination of the guests to plough through the courses, and everyone else's polite, excruciating speeches, becomes increasingly surreal and farcical. The experience is not a million miles removed from watching a venerable institution pull its pants down in public.

Henning Moritzen, as the patriarch, sits through the humiliation with seething, watery-eyed disbelief. The hotel flunkies, notably Lars the hapless receptionist and Kim the Gormenghast cook, put in priceless cameos. It's a cleverly edited piece of observational mischief, well worth seeking out.

An equally strange lot is **Kini & Adams**, Idrissa Ouédraogo's African buddy movie. This is the rising young director's first English-language film, and, for the most part, it's an enchanting piece of storytelling. Here the two Zimbabwean peasants of the title dream of the day they can repair their rusty old Rover and drive off to the city and the big time. It's an African road movie, still awaiting wheels.

Inevitably the beautiful friendship comes unstuck when their dreams start to look like a vague possibility. Both men find well-paid work in a local quarry, but Kini's head is turned when he is promoted, while the good-natured Adams gets turned over by a spiteful prostitute. The film, ostensibly a simplistic parable about the evils of materialism, deploys enough beefy acting to lift it out of the pulpit. David Mohloki (Adams) and Vusi Kuneni (Kini) are perfectly matched as proud friends and emotional liabilities, and John Kani's craggy, manipulative quarry manager oozes enough charisma to charm a bulldozer. But Ouédraogo can't resist the urge to soup up his themes with a self-destructive splurge of grand statements, shot against the magnificent Zimbabwe landscape.

Hitchcock too had a weakness for grand gestures, but his 1935 adaptation of John Buchan's **The 39 Steps** loses nothing by it. His lingering shot of the Forth Road Bridge is more evocative and memorable than any piece of installation art you care to name. The new print, the centrepiece of the Hitchcock season at the Barbican, has lost none of the *Boy's Own* ripping charm of the original.

Here Robert Donat's dashing Richard Hannay is forced to flee both the police and a ruthless spy ring when his bread knife ends up in the back of a mysterious woman he meets at a music hall. Despite the Brylcreem bounce, pencil moustache and droll honesty, Donat still fails to convince anyone of his innocence, or the imminent smuggling of vital state secrets.

The film has its Morris Minor moments. Forced to track down Godfrey Tearle's smooth-talking villain, Donat cuts a swath through the Scottish Highlands, pursued by police through the Highland gorse. His itinerary includes an overnight stop in a lonely cottage where he is glared at by John Laurie's flint-faced crofter and helped by Peggy Ashcroft's wistfully frustrated wife.

What one forgets is the fabulous wit with which Hitchcock pulls off these setpieces, not least the scene where Donat is mistaken for a celebrity at a local hustings and has to improvise a speech not knowing who or what he's meant to be supporting. They don't make fireside thrillers like this any more, and more's the pity.

WEBSITE:
Beloved: www.belovedthemovie.com

TELEVISION:
Barry Norman's Film Night, Sky Premier, Sunday 9pm, Monday 3.30pm, Wednesday 7.30pm

RADIO:
Talking Pictures, Radio 4, Saturday 5.30pm

On the wings of love

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **CITY OF ANGELS**
Warner DVD, 12, 1998
ADDED features for this DVD release include a making-of documentary and a sprinkling of cut scenes with a chatty commentary from director Brad Silverling and his editor. The package gives an extra boost to this surprising romantic comedy, inspired by Wim Wenders's art-house hit *Wings of Desire*. Meg Ryan is a Los Angeles heart surgeon at the crossroads of life. Enter Nicolas Cage, a hovering angel who falls under her spell and assumes human form. Very polished.

■ **THE LION KING II: SIMBA'S PRIDE**
Disney, U, 1998
YOUR children have seen the original movie a thousand times. So now you can buy the made-for-video sequel, which features less lustrous animation, most of the same characters (minus Jeremy Irons's Scar) and a similar batch of songs. Simba's pride is his new offspring Kiara, voiced by Neve Campbell, who wanders off for some dangerous adventures in the Outlands and speaks in the American-kid argot now in fashion among the animal kingdom. The film is also available in the DVD format: sharper picture, fuller sound, though older viewers in search of truly imaginative entertainment will still be left empty-handed.

■ **LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS**
PolyGram, 18, 1998
BLACK humour runs riot in Guy Ritchie's cheeky British comedy thriller about a bunch of lowlife chums with half a million pounds to find before gangster and porn baron Hatchet Harry attempts some bodily harm. Ritchie gets lively playing from his eclectic cast, which ranges from Jason Flemyng and Dexter Fletcher to soccer hardman Vinnie Jones and East End legend Lenny McLean, former heavyweight bare-knuckle champion of the world. A rental release.

■ **SOUTH**
BFI, E, 1919
NO video collector with an historical bent should miss this marvellous release: Frank Hurley's photographic record of Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempt to cross Antarctica in 1914-16, one of those glorious failures we British love to commemorate. Pack ice ultimately crushed the ship *Endurance*: an awesome spectacle in Hurley's photography, now preserved in a beautiful and painstakingly restored print after a herculean effort by the National Film and Television Archive. Neil Brand's music gives the sometimes random images lots of love and support.

GEOFF BROWN



■ **LISTINGS**

Brontë on stage in Leeds

ARTS

■ **DANCE**

Mukhamedov as Juan

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

EMERSON STRING QUARTET: Hailed as one of the finest chamber ensembles of our time, the Emersons make a welcome South Bank return with a performance of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* coupled with string quartets by Mozart and Sibelius. **Queen Elizabeth Hall** (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN: The New York performer of popular classics and a one-time protégé of Ira Gershwin, sings a selection of some of the *Gershwin brothers' immortal melodies* interspersed with reminiscences about the creative duo. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

BLUE HEART: Caryl Churchill's pair of plays Heart's Desire and Blue Kettle express family disruption through tricks with words. Max Stafford-Clark *directs for Out Of Joint.* **Pleasance** (0171-609 1800). Opens tonight, 8pm.

LE VIOLON D'INGRES: To accompany *its exhibition Portraits by Ingres*, the National Gallery hosts a recital by violinist Laurent Korcia and pianist Mari-Josèphe Jude. The focus of the programme is Caprice No 24 by Paganini, a contemporary of the 19th-century painter, prefaced by pieces by Janácek, Ysaye and Ravel. **National Gallery** (0171-839 3321). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ



Michael Feinstein entertains at the Barbican

ELSEWHERE

CAMBRIDGE: The Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites tour featuring two parallel* programmes shown simultaneously in separate venues forges ahead. The visit here includes new works by Mark Baldwin and William Tuckett, as *well as more familiar fare from* Frederick Ashton and Ashley Page. **Corn Exchange** (01223 357851). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

COLCHESTER: *Tim Brooke-Taylor* and Brian Murphy are members of the hopeless gang absentmindedly outwitted by Dulcie Gray in The Ladykillers. Adapted by Giles Croft, *directed by Richard Baron.* **Mercury Theatre** (01206 573948). Opens tonight, 8pm.

LEEDS: Malcolm Sutherland directs *his new version of Wuthering* Heights. Elisabeth Dermot Walsh and Chook Sibtain play the lovers. **Quarry** (0113-213 7700). Ⓢ Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. **Queens**, W1 *(0171-494 5041).*

◪ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material and new clowns, as well as his unforgettable finale. See review, page 39. **Piccadilly Theatre** (0171-369 1734).

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE: THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY:** Tricycle Theatre's gripping account of the sequence of mistakes. **Victoria Palace** (0171-834 1317).

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister *show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn* Jacques's falsetto screech. **Lyric** (0181-741 8701). Ⓢ

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating *Aida play here for a month before* setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs. **Royal, Haymarket** (0171-930 8800) Ⓢ

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves. **Apollo** (0171-494 5070).

□ **TALK OF THE CITY:** Stephen Poliakoff's potentially fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charis*matic Angus Wright.* **Young Vic** (0171-928 6363). Ⓢ

□ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). **Lyttelton** (0171-452 3000). Ⓢ

◪ **LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Ewan McGregor in the title role of a sentimentalised revival of David Halliwell's play about *art-student failure and fascism.* **Comedy** (0171-369 1731).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's first film for 20 years is an artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, *Ben Chaplin,Nick Nolte.*

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on *the Internet.* Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

PAINTED ANGELS (15): Bleak period piece about the prostitutes who serviced *the frontiersmen of the* Wild West. A joyless plod between the smelly punters and the drab wooden rooms by Jon Sanders.

TITANIC TOWN (15): *Julie Walters* excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

PERDITA DURANGO (18): Rosie Perez and Javier Bardem are two Tex-Mex pyschopaths who run amok in a careless road movie involving voodoo, frozen foetuses and drugs. Alex de la Iglesia directs.

URBAN LEGEND (18): Dire James Blanks horror flick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

CURRENT

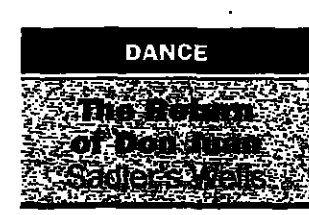
AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated *small-town cop. Nick Nolte and* James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk stalls. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Director Stephen *Herek flogs the satire rather less* keenly than his big name stars.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG) Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War *fable stitches a disturbing comedy into* the Holocaust. Supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of the struggle to survive in a death camp is at best nauseating

Spanish love, Russian style



DANCE

The Return of Don Juan
Sadler's Wells

Kim Brandstrup has always been the Ingmar Bergman of the dance world. And now here he is making a ballet whose antecedent is a Bergman film. Brandstrup's *The Return of Don Juan* even feels like a Bergman movie: austere, dense and interior. Cineastes may find much to admire in Brandstrup's intensely filmic production for his Arc Dance Company; the rest of us can admire Irek Mukhamedov in the title role.

Mukhamedov has just been *demoted to the status of guest* artist with the Royal Ballet, acknowledgement of the fact that his days as a Prince are numbered. But this show proves his stage power remains undiminished, that he is as charismatic and forceful as ever.

Both ballet and film (*The Devil's Eye*) are based in part *on an old Danish radio play, The Return of Don Juan* by Oluf Bang, which sees Juan condemned to Hell not because he has seduced so many women, but "because he felt so little while doing so". His punishment *is a constant stream* of sexually unfulfilled liaisons with beautiful women.

Brandstrup's addendum to the tale of the legendary Spanish nobleman catapults him into the 20th century for one last mission at the behest of the Devil: the seduction of the last virtuous woman on earth. Don Juan lands in a Hollywood film set where he finds himself cast to play himself in a movie about his life. The chaste leading lady (the Devil's target) is immune to his considerable charms; and for *the first time in his life, the* wily seducer falls in love.

The twists in the tale allow Mukhamedov to assume several personas: the puffed-out philanderer, the rakish buffoon, the romantic hero, the handsome *Hollywood* star. He plays them all with conviction, especially the romantic hero, *stripping away the pose and* artifice of his reputation in a tenderly heartfelt scene with his sleep-drugged beloved.

Brandstrup's movement language is fluently lyrical, whirling arabesques cutting across *the diagonals. He writes the* mime straight into the dance, so the story is always on the *move, while characters who* lurk on the sidelines are given richly expressive cameos. Brandstrup's choreography flatters Mukhamedov's technique, granting him stature and grace, but it denies him a *passionate inner life.* Which is why this dramatically lukewarm ballet would be unthinkable without the Russian's personal emotional energy.

Kenneth Tharp, in a dark suit with a naughty tail, is a smarmy Devil, orchestrating the Don's fate like a Mafia godfather and dancing as if the Devil has all the best choreographic lines. Genevieve Byrne is the Girl, a gamine creature in pedalpushers who calls to mind a blonde Audrey Hepburn. Byrne is a real find as a dancer, lovely of style and shyly feminine as the heroine.

The ballet features a commissioned score by the Danish composer Kim Helweg, densely atonal music of imaginative orchestral colouring and literal narration. David Roger's set is sumptuously simple.

DEBRA CRAINE



DEE CONWAY

Seduction in progress: Genevieve Byrne and Irek Mukhamedov in Kim Brandstrup's staging for Arc Dance Company

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: A laugh with Prokofiev; Mendelssohn in Beethoven's footsteps; Bashmet's winning Walton

OPERA

■ **PROKOFIEV**
Betrothal in a Monastery
Diadkova/Akimov/Gassiev/
Kirov Orchestra/Gergiev
Philips 462 107-2 ★ ★
£30.99

COMEDY *was in short supply* in the Soviet Union during the early 1940s. With the German Army knocking at the gates, probably only Prokofiev would have turned to Sheridan's farce *The Duenna* for inspiration. The knocking was loud enough for the premiere of *Betrothal in a Monastery, or The Duenna as it is* sometimes known, to be twice postponed and it was only heard when the war was over.

Since then performances have been infrequent. Prokofiev's demands were huge in terms of cast, chorus and dancers. The plot, basically a simple one of the girl who manages to marry for love and not money, is full of complex entanglements, notably in the lengthy second act.

The rewards come in a very perky score, with musical jokes in plenty, particularly in *the orchestra.* Valery Gergiev, champion of all operas Russian and rare, makes the most of these with his Kirov Orchestra. The best come in the brief final act, where a galumphing chorus of monks, clearly well into the hard stuff, switch into orthodox chant when visitors arrive. These include the *young lovers, sweetly sung by* Larissa Diadkova and Evgeny Akimov, and papa (Nicolai Gassiev), who makes amends by playing a tune on some handy musical glasses.

JOHN HIGGINS

CHAMBER

■ **MENDELSSOHN**
String Quartets Opp 12 & 13
Juilliard String Quartet
Sony SK 60579 ★ ★
£15.99

BEETHOVEN'S string quar*tets are just about the hardest* imaginable act to follow, and it was given to Mendelssohn to come to terms with his legacy in his chamber music. Undeterred, he wrote a Quartet in A minor at the age of 18 which was well-nigh *Beethovenian in* stature, and the Juilliard Quartet do it full justice here.

The way in which a little phrase from an earlier love song of Mendelssohn's is used to unify and concentrate this Op 13 Quartet is in itself a daring tribute to Beethoven. And the Juilliard pose and poise its sombre question with great beauty before springing into an Allegro of high nervous tension and sweet song.

They find the subtlest of shadings and articulation for its slow movement and a perfectly judged pulse for its gentle Intermezzo with a midsummer night's dream of a scherzo at its heart.

This great quartet is kept company by the Op 12 in E flat, a mellow, expansive and perhaps just slightly middle-aged performance of a work the 20-year-old Mendelssohn wrote on *his 1829* tour of England, Scotland and Wales.

HILARY FINCH

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ORCHESTRAL

■ **WALTON**
Viola Concerto
BRUCH
Double Concerto; Romance; Kol nidrei
Bashmet/Tretiakov/LSO/
Previn/Järvi
RCA Red Seal 09026 63292 2
★ ★ ★
£10.49

FEW executants have done more than Yuri Bashmet to raise the profile of the viola above joke status, though his unpredictability has not always done his reputation any favours. *But he is on top form* here in a fine programme of William Walton and Max Bruch. The former's concerto is one of the landmarks of the repertoire, and with the experienced Waltonian André Previn on the rostrum, this new account does it full justice. The bittersweet lyricism of the opening Andante and the sparkiness of the Scherzo are well caught by both Bashmet and Previn with the LSO.

The remaining three pieces (conducted by Neeme Järvi) are by Bruch: the celebrated *Kol nidrei* lament (originally for cello), a short Romance for viola and orchestra, Op 85, and the Double Concerto, Op 88. The last is better known in the version for clarinet and viola, but the alternative scoring, heard here with Victor Tretiakov on violin, is also appealing. Captivating Romantic lyri*cism and lush scoring.*

BARRY MILLINGTON

★ *Worth hearing*
★ *Worth considering*
★ ★ ★ *Worth buying*

Get it right — never mind the price



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Goldman Sachs flotation is on again. This time, however it may look to jealous outsiders, the decision to float is not about turning the partners into multi-millionaires. Oh no, this time Goldman is floating as part of a carefully thought out strategic plan for the development of the group. That is what the double act of John Thornton and John Thain has been telling the troops as they have whistle stopped through Asia, the US and Europe. The message may even, for a few moments, have stopped the troops worrying over just how many shares they were going to get. But not for long.

After the fiasco of last autumn's pulled flotation, the bank cannot afford to fail again. So now the message is that price is almost irrelevant: the important thing is to get the IPO over quickly and efficiently then get on with running the business. If Goldman tried telling its corporate clients that price was not important, they might be inclined to take their business elsewhere. But in this case it is largely true. With no more than 15 per cent of the company being sold and the inside shareholders forced to hold the stock for between three and five years, the partners can afford to price the issue at a level which will ensure it gets away swiftly. Their rewards will come later.

Goldman has been through a bruising period. The partners were divided over the original float plans: a fly on the boardroom wall would have witnessed scenes of naked greed which even some of the masters of the universe claimed to have found shocking.

Perhaps the experience really did cause a few investment bankers to wonder whether there was more to running a world beating bank than money. Anyhow, the result has been a change at the top of the organisation. Jon Corzine vacated the chief executive's chair and Hank Paulson moved into it. Together with Messrs Thornton and Thain, an established team, the trio now appear to be running the show. And they have been telling Goldman's near 2000 staff of their vision for the future: of a business which is strong on communication and encourages the careers of women and ethnic minorities.

But enough of that. Goldman is one of the world's three global investment banks, along with Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. It intends to hang onto that position and will go on grabbing business worldwide. Forty per cent of its profits now come from Europe and Asia where, just five years ago, it was still losing money. Its culture will not be changed by the flotation: the aim remains to win. Apple pie features a long way down the menu. The flotation provides a different way of rewarding staff: there will be shares for all, largely allotted on merit, which promises plenty of scope for excitement. And there will be paper with which to make acquisitions. That is not on the agenda now, of course, but that is what they all say.

A fresh plea for stunted giants

Few in the City will be bemoaning the loss to the stock market of Wainhomes. The company was floated in 1994 at 170p a share and now it is going private at 140p. This short and inglorious life as a public company bears no relation to Wainhomes's real business, which saw profits double in five years. No wonder the directors have decided that they need the City as much as Goldman Sachs partners need starter homes.

The company's exit from the stock market gives perfectly timed emphasis to the conclusions of a newly republished report forecasting the potential demise of the smaller quoted companies sector. Not all these tiddlers will grow into *Tomorrow's Giants*, the romantic title of the report, but, the way the stock market is polarising at the moment, the danger is that many potentially significant companies will be deprived of the route to capital and, thereby, expansion.

The Treasury is aware of the problem. Paul Myners spelt it out in his recent report and Geoffrey Robinson, when he was Paymaster General, established the inevitable committee to take a look. *Tomorrow's Giants* is a sequel to the work of that committee, penned by its deputy chairman, Brian Basham, and Craig Pickering who, for the past five years was head of the Industry division at the Treasury.

Mr Basham, best known as a corporate spin-doctor, tried his hand at building what might have been a giant of the future by launching a nursing home business. Rather than risk rejection by the stock market, he decided to sell to BUPA instead. But no matter: he would like others to have the chance to grow.

The report has a plethora of suggestions, ranging from the fashionable one of educating children in the joys of investment to pushing more company information on to the Web. That alone would have been unlikely to have altered the fortunes of a future Wainhomes.

What the report comes down to is a call for more tax incentives to encourage the private investor. It lands on Gordon Brown's desk as he puts the finishing touches to the Budget and is likely to be pushed on to an ever-increasing pile of worthy and unread pleas. Yesterday, the pile was also added to by another paeon of praise for employee share ownership plans from the ever-active Denis MacShane, MP.

The argument in both cases is that we should be encouraging more private investors. The Government should not ignore them.

ABI pulls off a palace coup

Luring Mary Francis to be the next director-general of the Association of British Insurers is quite a coup for chairman Sandy Leitch. Yesterday this column said that leading trade associations should take an imaginative approach to filling the top jobs that have fallen vacant simultaneously. Poaching from the Queen is certainly more adventurous than hiring someone from another industry organisation, as the ABI had done in the past, or another McKinseyite, the CBI's usual recruiting trick.

A former Treasury civil servant, Ms Francis has been at Buckingham Palace for the past three years. She may find that modernising the monarchy is a breeze compared with the problems of putting a positive case for the financial services industry. While the ABI would like to move on from pensions mis-selling, even the past week has seen the chairman of the Financial Services Authority warning that Isas will be mis-sold and the insurance ombudsman laying into mortgage protection policies.

Under such attacks, the industry tends to stifle its fears over how the plans for new savings products and complicated pension schemes are supposed to work. Ms Francis, with her knowledge of royal protocol, may prove to have been an inspired choice in securing enlightenment. A curtsey might secure that most sought-after privilege for those who want to learn what the Treasury is really thinking: an audience with Ed Balls.

Dr Brown's remedy

THE terminology surrounding the decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee has abandoned ornithology in favour of pharmacology. Hawks and doves have flown. Now Eddie George dishes out aspirins and the British Chambers of Commerce decries yesterday's decision to leave interest rates unchanged as "a bitter pill". Yet, with the Budget just days away, the MPC needed to pause from its rate cutting. After all, Gordon Brown may be planning to hand out a few anti-depressants to industry.

GKN profits up by 14% despite gloom on cars

By Adam Jones

GKN shares rose more than 7 per cent yesterday after an unexpectedly strong performance at its pallet rental business, Chep. The surge in the stock price came despite a downbeat forecast for car production in Europe.

GKN reported 1998 profits of £462 million before goodwill amortisation and exceptionals, a 14 per cent rise on 1997. Analysts had expected between £436 million and £460 million.

GKN said Chep, a joint venture that provides and manages crates for supermarket chains and others, enjoyed double-digit growth in all its operations. One big growth market is for returnable produce pallets that can be moved straight out into a supermarket display.

Group-wide sales of the company which manufactures propellor shafts and other components for cars, sells powder metals for a variety of uses, as well as making Westland helicopters, came in at £3.71 billion, up from £3.38 billion. Earnings per share were up from 39.2p to 80.2p, reflecting a £248 million one-off gain following a successful appeal against a court decision in the US last year.

GKN said it could afford to spend up to £1 billion on aquisitions but C.K. Chow, chief executive, played down the need to buy competitors in the automotive or support services fields.

It is still in talks to form an alliance between Westland and Agusta, the Italian helicopter company. GKN has already merged its armoured vehicle business with Alvis. It is unlikely that Vickers will inject its struggling tank-making arm into this pairing.

Mr Chow said GKN expects the US car market to be flat this year, although the group's market share should rise. Recent problems in Brazil had affected automotive profits but Mr Chow emphasised that emerging markets account for just over 3 per cent of sales.

GKN expects European car production to fall by about 3 per cent in 1999. The European car industry is responsible for about £1.4 billion of GKN sales. Danny Bevan, an analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, was unfazed: "They look as if they are going to manage their way through the European downturn reasonably effectively."

Demand for GKN's agricultural profits in Europe is also expected to fall this year, following an earlier slump in the US.

A dividend of 10.55p per share has been declared, making 16.3p (14.75p) for the year. The shares closed at 910p, close to their all-time high of 925p.

Tempus, page 30

Heavy going for Ladbroke's bookies

LADBROKE has experienced difficult trading conditions in its UK betting shop chain as it puts the final touches to its £1.5 billion takeover of Stakis, the rival hotel and gaming group (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company yesterday admitted that although trading in its two divisions had been "satisfactory" in the first two months of the year, trading margins in its Ladbrokes bookies' shops had been "lower than planned".

In common with rivals such as William Hill, Ladbrokes has suffered from effects of poor weather on race meetings and some predictable football results, enabling punters to rake in higher winnings than normal. A spokesman said: "Margins do fluctuate. That's the nature of the business."

Ladbroke was unveiling a 22 per cent rise in 1998 profits, before tax and exceptionals, to £276.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 14.82p to 17.90p. A 4.64p final dividend makes 7.58p, up 10 per cent. The Hilton International hotels division lifted profits by 2 per cent, to £181 million, with betting and gaming up 55 per cent, to £172.4 million — or 23 per cent excluding the effect of the recently sold Coral.

There was a £9.8 million writedown of launch costs of Vernons Easy Play, a football-based National Lottery game with 350,000 players a week, against forecasts of up to three million.

Thistle unveils record profits

By Dominic Walsh

THISTLE HOTELS, London's biggest hotel group, emerged from a year of turmoil to report record profits before tax and exceptionals of £86.6 million — a 9.2 per cent increase over 1997.

On a like-for-like basis revenue per available room rose by 5.6 per cent to £49.52, driven by a 6.1 per cent rise in average room rates. Bedroom occupancy saw a slight dip to 71.9 per cent from 72.3 per cent.

Including exceptional items, pre-tax profits almost halved to £46.8 million, with adjusted earnings per share reaching 11.9p (12.1p). This included a £27.5 million loss on the disposal of 34 of its regional hotels, realising £74.5 million, and £19 million from new accounting rules on property valuations.

There were also one-off costs of £1.4 million in advisers' fees relating to the abortive sale of the company to Nomura last summer. Thistle's shares, which had touched 250p in June, went into a tailspin after the deal's collapse, sinking to



Burke: "revenue growth"

103½p last December. Yesterday, they shed 3½p to 136½p.

Ian Burke, chief executive, said that trading in the first two months of the year had delivered "modest like-for-like revenue growth".

A final dividend of 3.0p makes a total of 4.5p, up 7.1 per cent. Investors will also share a £92.4 million special dividend — the second tranche of the £185 million promised in September.

Cookson to spend £400m

By Paul Durman

COOKSON, the industrial materials group, has £400 million to spend on acquisitions to bolster its new focus on electronics, ceramics and engineering.

Steve Howard, chief executive, said Cookson was considering "a couple of deals worth £200 million or more" as well as the more familiar bolt-on acquisitions.

Mr Howard said the company was making progress with its recently announced plans to close 20 manufacturing plants and rationalise another 10, which will cause 700 job losses. The first £50 million of costs from this programme was the main reason operating profits fell last year from £188.3 million to £122.9 million. Annual savings of £14 million are expected from next year.

Underlying pre-tax profits were 15 per cent lower at £151 million. A final dividend of 5.1p increases the total for the year by 2 per cent to 9.4p a share. Cookson's shares slipped 5½p to 149p.

Dawson chief fears US backlash on cashmere

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

SCOTTISH cashmere companies could be seriously damaged by the continuing uncertainty over whether the United States is to impose sanctions in its "banana war" with the European Union, a leading manufacturer said yesterday.

Peter Forrest, chief executive of Dawson International, the company behind the Pringle and Ballantyne brands, said: "The bad thing is that the indecision carries on and could delay some quite serious business coming Scotland's way." Small, independent companies will probably be worst hit, he said.

America says the EU's banana regime actually favours EU-based marketing companies and deprives its own big firms, such as Chiquita and Dole Foods, of revenues. It has drawn up a list of EU goods, including Scottish cashmere sweaters, that could be affected by 100 per cent tariffs.

Dawson said it will be largely protected from sanctions because it has a China-based business, which mainly supplies the US with cashmere and which would not be affected.

Dawson said yesterday that it intends to focus entirely on cashmere and to sell its other businesses after a year in which it fell £30.6 million into the red.

Dawson made a pre-tax profit in the previous year of £10.2 million. It is not paying any dividend for the year to January 2 (2.75p in the previous year). There were exceptional charges of £19.6 million relating to restructuring.

BOOKS

In SHORT

Days without nights

THE 24 HOUR SOCIETY
By Leon Kreitzman
Profile Books, £16.99
ISBN 1 86197 104 4

"INCESSANCE *is* the way of the world," says Leon Kreitzman, linking cars, consumerism and communication technologies with "a seamless total hours society". There's no stopping us — we have been conditioned to want it all and to want it now and to throw it away after use. Irresistible economic and workplace trends already impose radical changes on our relationship with time. Twenty-four-hour cities, "hubs in a global network", will enable the reorganisation of urban living in the new millennium. This excitingly prophetic, thoughtful book, based on research for BT and First Direct, will give traditionalists a few wakeful nights.

Ed 'n' Bert

BATTLE ROYAL
By Kirsty McLeod
Constable, £20
ISBN 0 09 479320 4

WINDSOR-WATCHERS will find few new facts in this story of the fall of Edward VIII and the rise of George VI, brother against brother, both deeply scarred by mother and majesty. But the book usefully boils down a mass of material, and its emphasis on family patterns reinforcing themselves in every generation from Victoria to Elizabeth II is entertaining. The implications for the present generations of Mountbatten-Windsor are irresistible. McLeod's irrepressible waspishness often damns with a loaded, well-placed word: Wallis Simpson doesn't get out of here alive, and the treatment meted out to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is plainly restrained only by the fact that she is still living.

Far out

THE LITTLE BOOK OF SCIENCE
By John Gribbin
Penguin, £2.99
ISBN 0 14 028005 7

WHAT is life? Life is "a self-organising complex phenomenon that occurs (sometimes) in places where energy is flowing from a hotter object to a cooler object". I can live with that. Thank you. Kinda puts me in my place in the Universe. And what is the Universe? It could be a grainy mass of wormholes that "form a tangled mess like cosmic spaghetti, which forms the structure of what looks to us a smooth and continuous time and space." Uh — OK — the Universe is scaly. In 100 nano-pages, you can learn cool stuff about weird science from Atom to Zweig (we thank you for the *quark, sir*): are you ready for leaping genes and nanobots?

IAIN FINLAYSON

You, too, can be Dickens's companion

Champion of the poor and scourge of politicians, the novelist is well-served by collection and compendium



Peter Ackroyd

Charles Dickens has been very fortunate in the late 20th century. Where Shakespeare seems to be in the hands of warring tribes of scholars, his work and reputation are being enhanced and consolidated by teams of vigorous and enthusiastic editors. His letters are progressing through the "Pilgrim" edition, and his journalism is being excellently edited by Michael Slater. There is now also a *Companion* to complement the Oxford Illustrated edition of his novels. There may be no public monuments to the greatest of all 19th-century English novelists, but these volumes are a more fitting memorial.

The third volume of Dickens's journalism consists of papers from *Household Words*, the weekly periodical which he edited for eight years and which became in his hands an extension of his fiction. Here are all the themes familiar from the novels he was composing in the period. *Hard Times* and *Little Dorrit* among them — the contempt for the entire political administration of the country, his sympathy for the hard-pressed victims of the mill and the manufactory, his compassion for the poor, and his outrage at the conditions in which they were compelled to live. Who could forget the image of the emaciated child, "with burning cheeks and great gaunt eager eyes" who had appeared in the doorway of a "ragged school", and "held the bottle of physic in his claw of a hand, and stood, apparently unconscious of it, staggering, and staring with his bright glazed eyes; a creature, surely, as forlorn and desolate as Mother Earth can have supported on her breast that night".

Not many writers could get away with the conventional allusion to "Mother Earth" but the angry clarity of Dickens's vision transcends sentimentality. That anger emerges all the more clearly in these years when the bungling of the Crimean War began to enrage him at precisely the time he became more and more estranged from conventional English society in all its forms. So in *Household Words*, at a time of cholera in 1854, he hit out against those who refuse "to amend the dwellings of the poor" as "guilty, before GOD, of wholesale murder".

Local incidents are lent a dramatic intensity and power by Dickens's incomparably subtle manner, but he was also an indefatigable wanderer and observer. He questioned the watchman on Waterloo Bridge about the number of suicides there; he interviewed police officers, the keepers of workhouses, the teachers in the "ragged schools". What emerges from this wonderful collection is his energy and his purposefulness; he was interested in everything, and bored by *nothing*. The strikers of Preston animated him — but then so did the plight of the lions at London Zoo, and the fatuities of temperance organisations.

Of all journalists he conveyed the most intimate tone. The journal was "Conducted by Charles Dickens", according to its masthead, by which he meant that he conducted his audience as well as his fellow-contributors. He often envisioned himself sitting by their firesides and conversing with them, and in the periodical itself there are essays upon his most intimate memories and private preoccupations. Here are some of the finest essays upon his childhood — "Thus I wandered about the City, like a child in a dream," he wrote in *Gone Astray*, ". . . inspired by a mighty faith in the marvellousness of everything." He kept that faith all his life, which is why even his most glancing observations possess a vivacity that has never faded. In the same essay he concludes: "They used to say I was an odd child, and I suppose I was. I am an odd man perhaps."

We cannot have one part of Dickens without all the rest, and this volume displays him entire — with his anger and playfulness, his self-confidence and his pity, his capacious memory and his genius for vivid contemporary observations, his extravagant humour and his brooding melancholy.

The Oxford Reader's Companion to Dickens provides a completely different, yet still complete, picture of the novelist. Here is the world of Dickens in brief but readily identifiable form. Some of the entries are succinct essays of their own, on matters critical and theoretical, analytical and historical. It is a fact, perhaps not known to all of the novelist's biographers, that at the time of his death his cellar at Gad's Hill contained, among innumerable cases of claret and sherry, more than 300 bottles of French brandy — all the more curious since Dickens himself was abstemious almost to a fault. And yet in this contrast between the apparently temperate man and the underground cellar awash with drink, we may have an inkling of Dickens's imaginative life. That is the essential strength of the *Companion*: all the facts and details live because they provide a composite portrait of writer and the age. It will prove invaluable to scholars, readers and admirers of Dickens into the next century and beyond. By that time, will Dickens have become immortal?

VOL. 3: GONE ASTRAY
AND OTHER PAPERS
Dickens's Journalism 1851-59
Edited by Michael Slater
Dent, £30; ISBN 0 460 87726 7

THE OXFORD READER'S
COMPANION TO DICKENS
Edited by Paul Schlicke
OUP, £40; ISBN 0 19 866213 0

Preach a gospel of peace

Charles Johnson hails the legacy of Martin Luther King

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
Ed. Clayborne Carson
Little, Brown, £18.99
ISBN 0 316 848220

A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT
Inspiration from the Great Sermons of Martin Luther King Jr
Ed. Clayborne Carson and Peter Holloran
Little, Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 848247

EPA/AFP

Martin Luther King greets supporters on the Mall in Washington, August 28, 1963, moments before delivering his famous "I have a dream" speech

Like America's Founding Fathers and the figures on Mt Rushmore, Martin Luther King Jr suffers from the curse of canonisation. Few people can tell you anything *about* him — the specific components of his "dream", for example, his intellectual beginnings, or pivotal moments in his 12-year public ministry of promoting the social gospel. Three decades after his death, one of America's greatest moral philosophers — a *dangerous* man at the white-hot centre of the movements for reform — has been airbrushed, sanitised and, as one black man recently put it to me: "Rehabilitated for white people. It's like we revere him, you know, so we don't have to *think* about him any more."

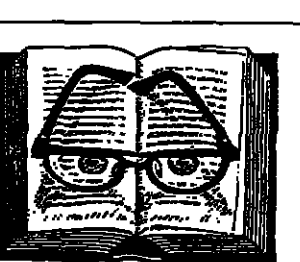
For those who *do* wish to think about this remarkable man and his rich legacy, the historian Clayborne Carson, director of the King Papers Project for the past 20 years, provides two important works with which we can begin. The first is *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.*, a text curiously named insofar as King did not live long enough to shape his life's story in this genre. But he did leave behind more than 200,000 pages of documents that Carson knows intimately as the editor of the first three definitive, annotated volumes of *The Papers of Martin Luther King Jr.* From these papers, King's three major books (*Stride Toward Freedom, Why We Can't Wait* and *Where Do We Go From Here?*), published essays, articles, speeches and sermons Carson artfully weaves a "religious and political" narrative using King's own words with no attempt to "correct historical inaccuracies in King's account", or mythologise away the flaws that humanise him.

Carson's book transports us back in time to King's tempestuous, mid-century campaigns for social justice. Readers will feel gripped when revisiting, for example, the year-long war of nerves that was the Montgomery bus boycott, and following the 26-year-old King, a newly minted PhD conversant with Hegel, the Personalist theologians and most of Western intellectual history, through the first challenges that made him an heir to Gandhi's nonviolence — racial challenges he met by always balancing activism with morality. "I would seek to rouse the group to action," he said of the Montgomery boycotters. "But I would balance this with a strong affirmation of the Christian doctrine of love."

One of the delights of this "autobiography" came in hitherto unpublished documents, like King's love letters to Coretta Scott. One, dated July 18, 1952, begins, "Darling, I miss you so much. In fact, too much for my own good," then after a paragraph of heartfelt longing for his fiancée, King launches into a critique of Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, and concludes: "I imagine you already know that I am much more socialistic in my economic theory than capitalist. And yet I am not so opposed to capitalism that I have failed to see its relative merits."

Carson's second contribution is *A Knock at Midnight*, a collection of sermons he edited with Peter Holloran. Each is introduced by a prominent theologian, among them the Rev Billy Graham and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. To understand King, Carson and Holloran argue, we must remember his remark that "I am fundamentally a clergyman, a Baptist preacher". His most powerful sermons here, such as *Loving Your Enemies* and *The Drum Major Instinct*, recontextualise him within the Judeo-Christian tradition. One, *Unfulfilled Dreams*, is astonishingly self-revealing when he confesses: "I'm a sinner like all God's children. But I want to be a good man."

We owe a debt to Carson for delivering King to us whole. With these two works, the magnificent biography by Stephen Oates entitled *Let the Trumpet Sound*, and the works of Taylor Branch, we are sumptuously prepared for carrying the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr into the 21st century.



BIBLIOMANE

MORE and more writers are being kidnapped by their editors. Publishing an author's diaries or letters should be an act of love, but becomes a heinous crime when the author is tortured into saying for public consumption something he or she does not believe.

Christina G. Rossetti's religious beliefs, the editor of her letters tells us, "liberated her, allowing her radically to exploit her gender along with widespread middle-class beliefs about women and their social roles . . ." And her femininity "enabled her to launch a quietly comprehensive attack on the entire network of patriarchal values . . . Rossetti was able to accomplish this goal by positioning herself as a devout adherent of High Anglican religious doctrine and, ostensibly, as an advocate of the more widespread Victorian ideology of 'women's sphere.' By embracing religious values with such radical fervour, however, Rossetti's work undercuts the domestic ideology . . . and challenges both the patriarchal values that governed Victorian England and their extension in industrial capitalism."

The editor may as well send a couple of fingers in the post to the Christina Rossetti Society. The paragraph above is not only not true, but a deliberate distortion. In reply to a feminist who wrote asking her to support votes for women, Christina Rossetti wrote, in the late 1870s: "Does it not appear as if the Bible was based upon an understood unalterable distinction between men and women, their position, duties, privileges? Not arrogating to myself but most earnestly desiring to attain to the character of a humble orthodox Xtian, so it does appear to me . . . The fact of the Priesthood being exclusively man's, leaves me in no doubt that the highest functions are not in this world open to both sexes . . ." And again: "Many who have thought more and done much more than myself share your views — and yet they are not mine."

A true Christian, which she was, does not "position herself as a devout adherent", and Rossetti did not feel "liberated" by her religion, but constrained. Nor did she "exploit her gender", or pervert her religious belief for "radical" political ends. She did not have ends antecedent to her beliefs; truth does not arise out of purpose. She rejected proto-feminism not "ostensibly" but from deep conviction, and gave her reason for believing in a sphere that was specifically women's. You may not like it, Antony H. Harrison, but if you do not, you should not volunteer to edit her letters. "It is no light offence to traduce the dead," as she once wrote.

The University Press of Virginia edition designed by Laury A. Egan, is extremely handsome, in the style of Clarendon Press books of the 1950s and 1960s. It is therefore the sadder that fewer such editions are being undertaken by Oxford University Press — formerly their natural home — because (I hope and believe) its traditions of editorial rigour would still prevent this kind of hijacking.

GEORGE ELIOT'S *Journals*, too, would have taken a better form at Oxford rather than they have at Cambridge, where Margaret Harris and Judith Johnson have been allowed to interpolate modish literary criticism between the rather random sections.

JIM MCCUE

Call it a vowel movement

GILES COREN

OULIPO COMPENDIUM
Edited by Harry Mathews and Alastair Brotchie
Atlas Press, £16.99
ISBN 0 947757 96 1

There is nothing in art more dated than the avant-garde. Dadaism and the Nouveau Roman make Chrétien de Troyes or the Bayeux Tapestry look like the *dernier cri* in Post-Modern self-expression. But while most of the polo-necked perpetrators of the avant-garde have much to answer for, no group is more blameworthy in the process by which French thought became an object of ridicule than the Oulipo.

The Oulipo were born out of the ashes of the *Collège de Pataphysique*, a congregation of literary fruitcakes who sought to perpetuate the memory of Alfred *Ubu Roi* Jarry. Deriving their name from a contraction of "*Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle*", they endeavoured to challenge the nihilistic approach to authorship of Roland Barthes and his Structuralist hoodlums, and looked to create literature by imposing perverse constraints on their writing.

From 1960 the *Oulipians* wrote poetry and prose that was sometimes palindromic, frequently anagramatic, often lipogramatic. They wrote books using only the keys on the left-hand side of the typewriter. They wrote poems in which each word has one letter fewer than the previous. They also, I suspect, dressed up as pumpkins, ate dog soup, and believed they were the Duke of Wellington's horse.

The illustrious Oulipian François Le Lionnais sought the minimum limits of poetry by writing poems of only one word, such as the epic *Fennel*, which I reproduce here in full: "fennel". Later in his career he moved on to exploring poems of only one letter, though space here does not allow me to quote from his harrowing, but ultimately uplifting, *T*.

Out of lunacy, however, genius occasionally springs. Raymond Queneau, one of Oulipo's founding fathers, inaugurated the movement with his *100,000,000,000,000 Poems*. This comprises ten sonnets, all written with the same rhyme scheme. Any single line can be interchanged with its corresponding line in another sonnet (the lines are perforated to allow for their being torn out and manipulated in the manner of children's books which encourage body parts to be combined). In theory, there are around 100 million million poems available, which would take someone reading 24 hours a day 190,258,751 years to finish. Less if she were a girl, I suppose, as they always read faster than boys.

In 1967, the remarkable Georges Perec was admitted to the group and greatness beckoned. To read his *La Disparition* — a 300-page novel written without using the letter "e" — may be the literary equivalent of trying not to pee for a week, but the result is a sparkling detective story. If you like that, you'll love *Les Revenentes*, a shorter effort in which he used up all the e's he had neglected, and employed no other vowels. Readers of his greatest work, *La Vie Mode d'Emploi*, may not be aware that it is an attempt to solve the mathematical enigma of the Knight's Tour Problem in the context of a 10x10 Graeco-Latin bi-square. They will notice only that they cannot put it down, and may afterwards reflect that it is as close to an example of the perfect novel as this half of the 20th century can offer.

The *Oulipo Compendium* is a Pandora's box, and when you tip out all the rubbish there is hope. I leave you a little richer in your hearts if I leave you with this pair of poems, from the limerick section.

There was a young man from Peru
Whose limericks stopped at line two

There was a young man from Verdun

ANNE DE BRONHOFF



Oulipo author Georges Perec with editor Harry Mathews

BOOKS

Feminist heroine loses the plot

Sarah Dunant wonders to what Germaine is germane

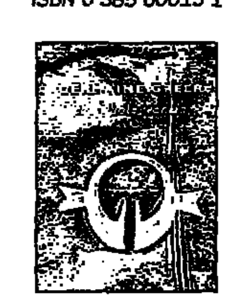
Like many of my generation, *The Female Eunuch* was a seminal book for me. I was 23, travelling solo in Thailand. I couldn't afford a bunk on the train from Bangkok to Changmai so I sat up all night in third class consuming Greer's passionate call to sexual revolution. At dawn I got off the train transformed.

In the years following, I, along with other feminists, have watched Greer grow older with a mixture of awe and exasperation. While that bloody-minded fabulous intelligence has continued unbowed, her feuds with other women and her idiosyncratic, sometimes downright contradictory, views, have increasingly made her as much an embarrassment as a support. Yet hers has been a voice we listened to even when we opposed it, even when it didn't seem to make much sense.

Which brings us to *The Whole Woman*. "The follow up she said she would never write" is a catalogue of horrors. Far from being liberated, Greer now says, women have only been manipulated further into submisssion. The pursuit of equality at work has resulted in harassment and intimidation, the tyranny of beauty has reduced us to image-slaves, the devaluing of motherhood has led to poverty and exploitation. Women are still being screwed by the system — I use the word screw advisedly. Greer is obsessed by the notion of women being penetrated, a theme which runs through the book. "In the last third of the 20th century more women were penetrated deeper and more often than any preceding era. What the penis could not accomplish was done for it by the outsized dildo and the fist, the speculum and the cannula."

The medical establishment's use/abuse of women is, of course, one of Greer's hobby horses. Even abortion, in this book, comes under the banner of male conspiracy. (In a novel piece of historical argument she explains the liberalisation of abortion laws in America as the medical establishment's desire to make a buck out of new operative procedures.)

THE WHOLE WOMAN
By Germaine Greer
Doubleday, £16.99
ISBN 0 385 60015 1



What makes such assertions harder to take is as much her style as her content. Germaine has not got where she has today by watching her mouth. But there is a powerful difference between what you say as a soundbite on TV and an argument in a book of essays. Her hyperbolic language and wild generalisations undermine her credibility. In a chapter on sex we learn that: "In some British circles women are asked to perform fellatio on demand." What circles, Germaine? Who are these men and women? Have you talked to them? And, God forbid, did any of the women mention that they might have consented to or even got some pleasure from it?

Underneath these excesses of style is a more serious question. Does Germaine really know what she's talking about? Some of these essays read like collections of press clippings and statistics with the merest thread of intellectual argument holding them together. Sometimes the inconsistencies between them are gobsmacking. While Western women should be refusing to have intercourse because it has no relationship to sexual pleasure, women in countries where clitoral surgery is common are OK, in Greer's eyes, because the operations are performed by other women and both men and women acknowledge that their culture prizes a tight vagina!

In the past Greer's most notable polemics have been rooted in personal experience. When she wrote *The Female Eunuch* she was a sexually active young woman living on a cusp moment of history. In *Sex and Destiny* there was a link between her own childlessness and radical arguments about contraception and motherhood. When she wrote *The Change*, her own journey through menopause informed her advice to other women.

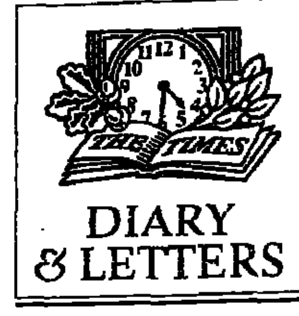
Here she has little or no personal experience to temper her more outrageous pronouncements. How can she lecture young women on what she sees as their exploited sexuality when she has by her own admission given up on sex? How can she describe male-female relationships as largely abusive when she has stopped trying to have her own? Isolation leaves her in danger of not being able to read her own culture. She studies teen magazines and diagnoses gender apocalypse, not allowing for even a modicum of increased sophistication from a younger generation in decoding the toxicity of its own popular culture. It seems she can't remember the ingenuity and rebellion of youth. If Greer could resist becoming Doris Day there is just a chance that my 11-year-old won't automatically become Courtney Love.

Finally, it's her pessimism that's so hard to take. Though she evokes "feminism" as a rallying cry to a better future, her exhortations lack passion. In the end it doesn't matter what we do because we're doomed. For her the corrupted West has run out of steam: for the future look to the East. "Female power will rush upon us in the persons of women who have nothing to lose, having lost everything already." According to Greer it might come from China or fundamentalist Islam, or Thailand — where Aids and prostitution are destroying a generation. Sounds like a dose of romantic Marxism to me. Still, maybe I'll give a copy to my daughter to take to Thailand. I just think I'll give her something else to read on the train journey.

FAY GODWIN/FRANK HERRMANN



About face: the author of *The Female Eunuch* applies a double standard to developed and Third World cultures



DIARY & LETTERS

A. N. WILSON brings out a new book, *God's Funeral*, in June, about the anguish felt by many men and women in the 19th century, as they read Lyell's *Principles of Geology* and Darwin's *Origin of Species*, and found their Christian faith fading. Which publisher brought out Lyell's and Darwin's books? John Murray. And Wilson is published by? John Murray.

THE magazine Living Marxism *is organising a conference on "Dumbing Down, Wising Up?" at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith this weekend, and* The Times Literary Supplement *is taking part. But what are the Marxists doing organising this? Didn't the Communists control the greatest dumbing-down operation the world has ever known? (Tickets 0181-237 1111)*

TONY HANANIA'S forthcoming novel, *Unreal City* (Bloomsbury), which deals with the freedom of expression of Arab writers in the West, has provoked controversy in *Al-Hayat*, the international Arabic newspaper. "The book reiterates the central 'blasphemy' of *The Satanic Verses*," says Hanania — in one scene, prostitutes bear the names of the prophet Muhammad's wives. It is rumoured that London's The Word literary festival, where Hanania will read this month, is reviewing its security arrangements.

ABSINTHE — tipple of drop-outs and artists in 19th-century Paris, has made a return among London *litterateurs*. Your diarist, entertained by readings from Rimbaud, reeled from the absinthe cocktails served by Tam Dean Burn and his "Green Fairies" at T2 on Clerkenwell Road on Tuesday. More gatherings are planned for the first Tuesday of the next three months — on football, female erotica and alternative travel. BYO. 0171-689 0322 for details.

Death-defying adventures by the Saddams of old Iraq

When the Epic of Gilgamesh began its life 5,000 years ago, the sands now ruled by Saddam Hussein were the birthplace of all human civilisation. Gilgamesh was king of Uruk, in what is now southern Iraq, when there was almost as much Middle Eastern war as there is today. But the ancient Iraqi rulers, as well as raping, torturing, enslaving and building monuments to themselves, also found time to witness the beginning of literature, man's first steps at characterisation and the creation of a story which still has power to amaze today. Which is possibly why the brutal, mood-swinging, mildly psychotic reputation of King Gilgamesh still stands in higher esteem than that of his rather similar 20th-century successor.

The world's first written story begins with the gods creating a wildman, Enkidu, to divert King Gilgamesh from his habit of demanding first sexual congress with the local brides: even in the 3rd millenium BC, it seems, the *droit de seigneur* was judged as unsocial behaviour.

This Enkidu, an "offspring of silence", gets his own sexual education from a rural prostitute. "For six days and seven nights Enkidu was erect", we are told, before he is ready to fight Gilgamesh. Enkidu fails to conquer the King but, instead of squaring up for Round Two, the pair become firm buddies, joining forces for a series of adventures.

During one of these scrapes Enkidu dies, raising acute fears in Gilgamesh about his own mortality. There is only one known immortal on earth, the survivor of the great flood with which the gods had deluged early humanity. But when Gilgamesh reaches him, he finds that his own death is inevitable. He is offered the key to eternal youth, but loses it and has to be content with mere permanent earthly memorials, extravagant buildings and military defenses.

BRITISH MUSEUM



Akkadian art, ca. 2200 BC, the period of Gilgamesh's epic

The various elements of this story have had enormous influence — from their impact upon the characterisation of the Homeric heroes to their inspiration for mortality-obsessed modern writers, such as Rilke. The fierce pride of Gilgamesh, his descent from a goddess mother and mortal father, his grief at the loss of a close male friend and his near victory over death all are harbingers of Achilles in the *Iliad*. Gilgamesh's sharp shifts of emotion create a human character, arguably the first in literature, even through the stilted style of its composition.

The importance of the epic is not only literary. The discovery that there was a flood myth earlier than that of the Old Testament Noah caused a religious sensation last century. For classical scholars the realisation that Greece was not the origin of every artistic virtue was a lesson that still needs to be better learnt. But the original text itself has not found as many modern readers as it deserves. Until the publication of this new Penguin Classic, the most convenient English text was its Penguin predecessor, a soggy lump of 1950s prose. Andrew George's bright verse replacement ought to bring Gilgamesh and his quest to many more British readers. It is easier to read as a work of art and easier to use as a tool for sorting out all the epic's almost miraculous linguistic history.

PETER STOTHARD

THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH
Trans. Andrew George
Penguin Press, £20
ISBN 0 713 99196 8

Some of the texts that are collected here in English for the first time can be dated, for example, to the Babylon of the 18th century BC, about 1,000 years after the historical Gilgamesh had failed to avoid his death. At that time, as in the Britain of 18th century AD, a well-educated clerk had to be fluent in a language which, for all day-to-day purposes, was dead. Gilgamesh's Sumerian was by then ancient Sumerian and played the part of Latin in the age of Gibbon.

Between the time of the living Gilgamesh and the final creation of his epic character, the local language of labourers and scribes had changed to a semitic tongue, Akkadian. While armies of outdoor slaves laboured by the Euphrates on immortalising ziggurats, the intellectually ambitious had to copy out thousand year old texts, carving wedge-shaped letters on clay tablets under the gaze of indoor slave-drivers who would whack them for the smallest error.

At least the ancient Greeks, who between the ages of Agamemnon and Homer found a better writing script, kept a single identifiable language: the Mesopotamians did the opposite, keeping their old Sumerian cuneiform script but abandoning the old words. The Gilgamesh stories have also survived in Hittite, which modern scholars can understand fairly well and Hurrian, barely understood at all. George has formed an English text from the best of the tablets, differentiating his complex sources but allowing the general reader a clear run at one of the first enduring stories ever told.

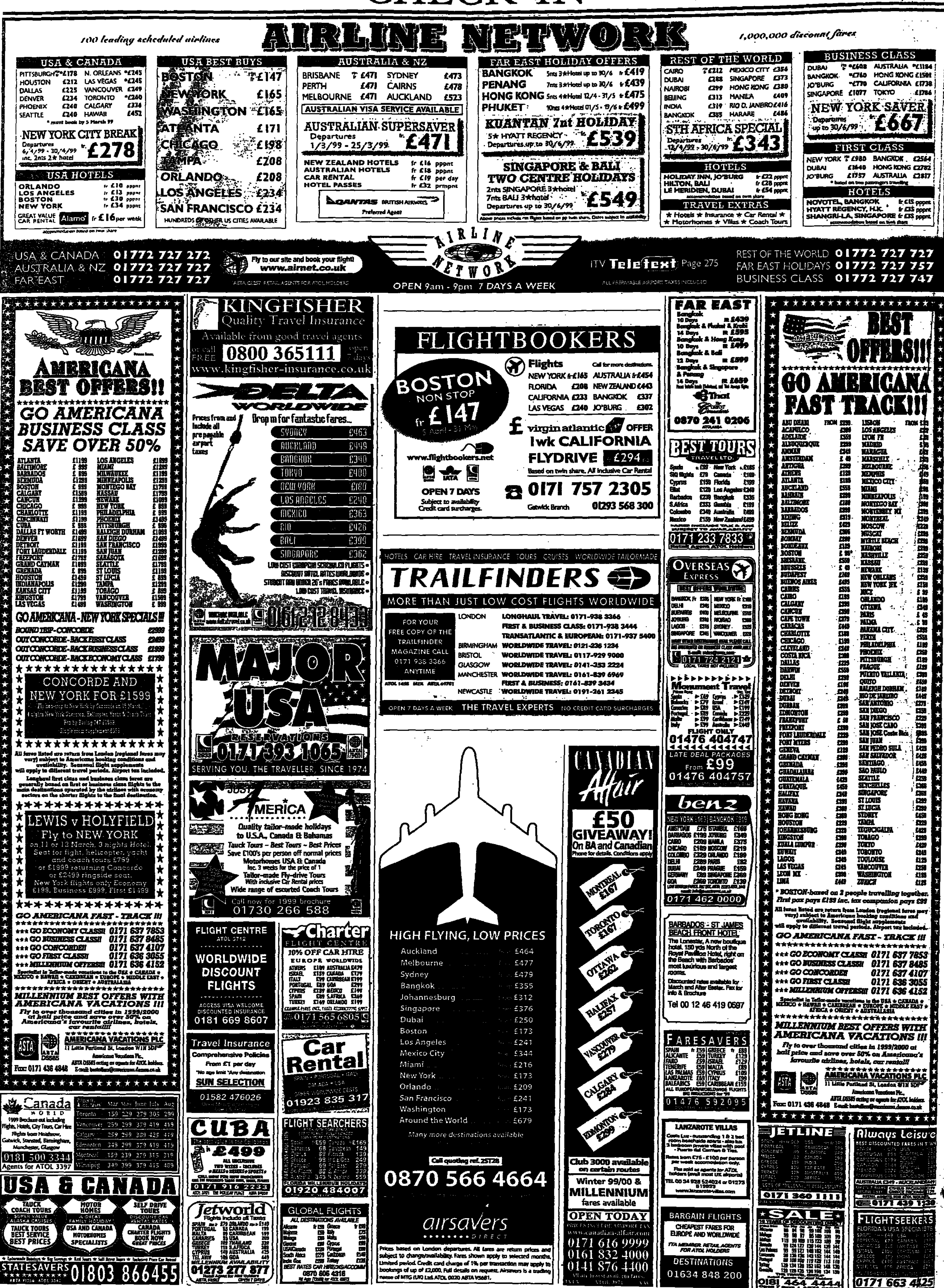
Thanks to the industry of ancient scribes and modern archaeologists, new tablets are being discovered all the time. The greatest shortage is of scholars equipped to read them. In most fields of modern literary scholarship, there are too many PhD students chasing too few subjects. This is a field, centred on the very origins of literature, where the opposite is the case. Perhaps this book will inspire the future students who will fill the gaps, take away the italics, open up the square brackets and provide a text as solid as that of all the later works which Iraq's second-best-known tyrant influenced so much.



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Court of Appeal

Law Report March 4 1999

Lack of reasons can be ground of appeal

Flannery and Another v Halifax Estate Agencies Ltd, trading as Colleys Professional Services

Before Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Laws and Mr Justice Hidden

[Judgment February 18]

Failure by a judge at first instance to give reasons for a conclusion essential to his decision could constitute a good ground of appeal in circumstances where, on hearing expert evidence from both parties in a dispute, the judge decisively preferred the defendant's expert but did not give his reasons in the form of a coherent reasoned rebuttal of the other expert evidence when he was under a duty to do so.

In accordance with *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Leave to appeal and skeleton arguments)* ([1999] 1 WLR 2) leave should be sought from the trial judge immediately after judgment was delivered.

On the application for leave, if a "no reasons" point was being taken, the potential respondents should consider inviting the judge to give his reasons, and his explanation as to why they were not set out in the judgment, in an affidavit for use at the leave application and at the hearing if leave were to be granted.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by Frank Flannery and Ann Flannery against the dismissal by Judge James, QC, on January 23, 1998 at Manchester County Court of the plaintiffs' claim for professional negligence against the defendant surveyors, Halifax Estate Agencies Ltd, trading as Colleys Professional Services, in respect of a valuation of property which they subsequently purchased should be dismissed.

The judge had heard evidence from an expert valuer and an expert engineer on both sides as to the cause of cracks in the superstructure of the first floor flat purchased by the Flannerys. The judge preferred the evidence of the defendant's experts over that of the plaintiffs.

The Flannerys complained on appeal solely that the judge failed to give reasons for that decision. The Court of Appeal set aside the judgment, remitted the matter for retrial and made general observations on what constituted the duty to give reasons.

Mr Paul Darling for the Flannerys; Mr Graeme McPherson for the surveyors.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case raised in stark form the question when the failure of a judge at first instance to give reasons for a conclusion essential to his decision could of itself constitute a good ground of appeal.

That today's professional judge owed a duty to give reasons was clear: see, for example, *R v Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ex parte International Sporting Club* ([1982] QB 304), although there were some exceptions.

It did not always or even usually apply in the magistrates' court, nor in some areas where the court's decision was more often than not a summary exercise of discretion, in particular, orders for costs. For the general duty see *R v Harrow Crown Court, Ex parte Dave* ([1994] 1 All ER 315) which contained a useful review of earlier authority.

It was not a useful task to attempt to make absolute rules as to the requirement for the judge to give reasons. That was because issues were so infinitely various.

For instance, when the court in a case without documents depending on eyewitness accounts was faced with two irreconcilable accounts, there might be little to say other than that the witnesses for one side were more credible.

But with expert evidence it should usually be possible to be more explicit in giving reasons: see *Eckersley v Binnie* ((1988) 18 Const LR 1; 77).

Their Lordships commented on the duty to give reasons:

1 The duty was a function of due process, and therefore of justice. Its rationale had two principal aspects.

The first was that fairness surely required that the parties, especially the losing party, should be left in no doubt why they had won or lost. That was especially so since without reasons the losing party would not know, *as was said in Ex parte Dave*, whether the court had misdirected itself, and thus whether he might have an available appeal on the substance of the case.

The second was that a requirement to give reasons concentrated the mind; if it was fulfilled, the resulting decision was much more likely to be soundly based on the evidence than if it was not.

2 The first of those aspects implied that want of reasons might be a good self-standing ground of appeal.

Where because no reasons were given it was impossible to tell whether the judge had gone wrong on the law or the facts, the losing party would be altogether deprived of his chance of an appeal unless the court entertained an appeal based on the lack of reasons itself.

3 The extent of the duty, or rather the reach of what was required to fulfil it, depended on the subject matter.

Where there was a straightforward factual dispute whose resolution depended simply on which witness was telling the truth about events which he claimed to recall, it was likely to be enough for the judge, having, no doubt, summarised the evidence, to indicate simply that he believed X rather than Y; indeed there may be nothing else to say.

But where the dispute involved something in he nature of an intellectual exchange, with reasons and analysis advanced on either side, the judge must enter into the issues canvassed before him and explain why he preferred one case over the other.

That was likely to apply particularly in litigation where, as here, *there was disputed expert evidence*; but it was not necessarily limited to such cases.

4 That was not to suggest that there was one rule for cases concerning the witnesses' truthfulness or recall of events, and another for cases where the issue depended on reasoning or analysis, with experts or otherwise.

The rule was the same: the judge must explain why he had reached his decision. The question was always what was required of the judge to do so and that would differ from case to case. Transparency should be the watchword.

Referring to *Eckersley v Binnie*, it seemed to their Lordships that the judge's preference for the defendants' expert, which was decisive, should have enabled him to give his reasons in the form of the "coherent reasoned rebuttal" referred to by Lord Justice Bingham in that case.

Accordingly, in their Lordship's judgment, the judge was under a duty to give reasons and did not do so. Without such reasons his judgment was not transparent and their Lordships could not know whether the judge had adequate or inadequate reasons for the conclusion he reached.

It should not be assumed that the court that, for whatever reason, failed to give reasons had no reasons. Here, for example, it seemed likely that the judge believed he had said enough. In that their Lordships differed from him.

One alternative remedy to quashing the decision was to invite or require the court to give reasons. Here the time which had elapsed meant that it would not have been realistic for the judge to reconstitute his reasons.

But, in accordance with the new *Practice Direction* leave should be sought from the trial judge immediately after judgment was delivered.

On the application for leave, if a "no reasons" point was being taken, the potential respondents should consider inviting the judge to give his reasons, and his explanation as to why they were not set out in the judgment, in an affidavit for use at the leave application and at the hearing if leave was granted.

Solicitors: Pannone & Partners, Manchester; Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

Rent loss deductible for income tax purposes

Herbert Smith (a Firm) v *Honour (Inspector of Taxes)*

Before Mr Justice Lloyd

[Judgment February 12]

An expected shortfall in rent from two leases of office premises that ceased to be occupied by a partnership that was properly included in its annual accounts drawn up according to generally accepted principles of commercial accounting was deductible in computing the partnership's annual profits for income tax purposes.

Mr Justice Lloyd so held in the Chancery Division when allowing an appeal by a firm of solicitors, Herbert Smith, from the determination of special commissioners who had rejected its claim to deduct £5,511,258, being an amount included in its accounts for the 12 months to April 30, 1990 for expected loss consequent on the firm's relocation to new office premises.

Mr Edward Walker-Arnott, senior partner, Herbert Smith, in person; Mr Nicholas Warren, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that in 1989 the *partnership occupied* four offices in London and decided to move to a single office. The leases of two of the abandoned offices were at rents that were well above the current level of the market and were not capable of being terminated.

The partnership's accounts included a provision for the rental shortfall. The Revenue contended that although that was a proper approach as a matter of generally accepted principles of commercial accounting and a fair approach as between the firm's partners, new, continuing and retiring, nevertheless for tax purposes the partnership's profits had to be regarded as not subject to the deduction of anything in respect of the rental liability on the two leases other than the rent for the premises falling due during the period itself and that to make provision for future rent liability anticipated loss in a way that was not legitimate for tax purposes.

It was not in dispute that the partnership was entitled to deduct the shortfall between the rent payable *under the leases* and the smaller rent obtained on sublettings, even though the premises were no longer used for the purposes of the profession.

The dispute was as to whether the shortfall was to be deducted in advance, or rather year by year as it accrued.

Mr Walker-Arnott argued that the amount in any given year of the profits of a partnership which had its accounts prepared on generally accepted principles of commercial accountancy was the profits shown by those accounts for that year.

There was, he said, only very limited scope for going behind those accounts and this case was not an instance in which, according to the decided cases, that could be done.

Mr Warren submitted that there was a rule of tax law that neither profits nor losses might be anticipated and that if, on their true analysis, the accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted principles of commercial accounting involved such anticipation, they could not be used for tax purposes but had to give way to a calculation which eliminated any such anticipation.

At the heart of the case were the fundamental accounting concepts described in the Revenue's *Statements of Standard Accounting Practice*, Number 2 (1971) and the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Gallagher v Jones* ([1994] Ch 107).

That case concerned a boat hire business: the boats being obtained on long leases that involved significant rental in the first two years and nominal rental in subsequent years.

The business accounts for the first year showed as a deduction the full amount paid under the lease during that period. Thus they did not show a true and fair view of the financial position of the business.

The Court of Appeal accepted the Revenue's case that in accordance with generally accepted principles of commercial accounting, the expenditure under the leases should be accounted for over the whole useful life of the boats.

Mr Walker-Arnott submitted *that the case was exactly like Gallagher* except that it was the partnership and not the Revenue who relied on undisputed evidence as to generally acceptable principles of commercial accountancy.

The present case, he said, on the basis of accountancy evidence, was another example of expenditure being properly accounted for in a period other than that in respect of which it was contractually due.

Mr Walker-Arnott was correct. Mr Warren's argument that the commissioners' decision was supported by a supposed independent rule against anticipation of liabilities had to be rejected.

The case was a mirror of that in *Gallagher*, the difference being that it was the Revenue, rather than the taxpayer as there, which sought to escape from the consequence of applying generally accepted principles of commercial accounting by resort to an undefined alternative principle which was not supported by any of those generally accepted principles.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Court of Appeal

Personal representatives were the trustees

Rooney v Cardona and Others

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Lord Justice Mantell and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment February 9]

On the agreed facts between the parties that a policy of life insurance effected by a husband and wife, which contained no express declaration of trust nor any reference to the Married Women's Property Act 1882, was subject to the provisions of section 11 of that Act, a judge erred in rejecting a submission that when the section referred to the personal representatives of the life assured it did so as a means of identifying the trustee or trustees who were to be legally entitled to the policy, not as a direction that they were to hold the policy as personal representatives.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Mr Gerard Rooney, the trustee in bankruptcy of Robert Daniel Cardona, from an *order of Judge Cook in St Albans* County Court on August 6, 1998, varying an order of District Judge Hewetson-Brown on four preliminary issues in an action against the first defendant, Mr Cardona's son, and Black Horse Insurance Company and others.

Mr John McLinden for the trustee in bankruptcy; Mr Philip Marshall for Black Horse Insurance Co; the first defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that in 1992 Mr and Mrs Cardona effected a policy with the second defendant on their own lives for ten years, with a death benefit of £60,000 payable on the death of either prior to that date.

Mr and Mrs Cardona were the grantees and the appropriate benefit was payable "to the grantee(s) or the person(s) otherwise entitled" subject to proof of entitlement.

On October 24, 1995 Mr Cardona was adjudicated bankrupt on the petition of the Inland Revenue. On November 22, 1995 notice of his bankruptcy was published in the *London Gazette*. On January 30, 1996 Mr Rooney was appointed as his trustee in bankruptcy.

On June 8, 1996 Mrs Cardona made a will leaving her entire estate to her son, the first defendant. She appointed Mr Cardona and a Mr Cave as her executors.

She died on July 23, 1996. Her will was proved by Mr Cardona on September 6, 1996, power being reserved to the other executor.

There was no evidence that Mr Cave had either formally renounced probate or taken any part in the administration of the estate.

Within a short time of his wife's death Mr Cardona contacted Black Horse Insurance and subsequently obtained the death benefit, having claimed that he was legally entitled to the policy and that it had not been assigned, mortgaged, settled, charged or otherwise dealt with.

The four preliminary issues were:

1 If Mr Cardona was the sole beneficiary of the policy, was the receipt *of Mr Cardona, as his wife's legal* personal representative, a valid discharge for the proceeds of the policy against the trustee in bankruptcy pursuant to section 11 of the 1882 Act assuming the only possible notice was the Gazette notice of November 22, 1995?

2 Would the answer to the previous question be different if Black Horse had actual notice as pleaded?

3 Did the proceeds of the policy devolve on Mr Cardona as after-acquired property for the purposes of section 307 of the Insolvency Act 1986?

4 Would the answer to 1 and 2 be different if Black Horse had no notice of the capacity in which Mr Cardona gave the receipt?

Both sides agreed, and were plainly right in agreeing that the judge gave the correct answer, "No" to question 3. But the other three questions were based on an agreed but questionable premise: that the policy was effected under section 11 of the 1882 Act and was subject to the special provisions as to trusteeship contained in that section.

It had been held that a policy which was a life or endowment policy could fall within section 11, at any rate if the life assured died before the maturity date: see *In re Ioakimidis Policy Trusts* ([1925] Ch 403).

It had also been held or opined by the majority of the Court of Appeal in *Griffiths v Fleming* ([1909] 1 KB 805, 817-819) that a policy on the joint lives of a husband and wife could be regarded as two policies, each effected by one or other of the married couples on his or her own life and each falling within section 11 of the 1882 Act.

In that case Lord Justice Farwell and Lord Justice Kennedy took the view, (at p818) that the joint lives policy with which they were concerned, or rather the component of it effected by the wife, was "expressed to be for the benefit of her husband" within the meaning of section 11.

His Lordship found that view puzzling on the wording of the policy recorded in the report. In *In re S decd* ([1996] 1 WLR 235) Mr Justice Rattee also seemed to have been rather puzzled by *Griffiths v Fleming* although he followed it and applied it to a joint life and 25-year endowment policy.

Had the issue been live his Lordship would have taken the view that the court was not bound to apply the views expressed by two members of the court in *Griffiths v Fleming* in relation to a policy which they regarded as a mistaken amalgamation of two separate contracts.

The policy with which the court was concerned made no reference to section 11 of the 1882 Act. It was not expressed to be effected for the benefit of Mr Cardona or Mrs Cardona. In the absence of any evidence as to separate proposal forms his Lordship would have been disposed to think that it was not within section 11 of the 1882 Act.

But the parties must be held to their agreed starting point that the policy must be treated as if it had been a life policy effected by Mrs Cardona for the benefit of her husband. The effect of the assumptions on which the preliminary issues were agreed was that Mrs Cardona's personal representatives became trustees of the policy on her death.

The judge recorded but rejected Mr McLinden's submission that when section 11 referred to the personal representatives of the life assured it did so as a means of identifying the trustee or trustees who were to be legally entitled to the policy.

In his Lordship's judgment, he was wrong to do so. The whole purpose of the provisions at the end of section 11 *was to identify* trustees who were to hold the policy moneys on the appropriate trust, with a statutory direction that those moneys "shall not, so long as any object of the trust remains unperformed, form part of the estate of the insured, or be subject to his or her debts".

Those words could hardly be clearer and excluded the possibility that Mr Cardona could act on his own in the trusteeship, if Mr Cave was indeed his co-trustee.

However, his Lordship also considered the position on the hypothesis *that Mr Cave did disclaim his* trusteeship and that Mr Cardona became sole trustee of the policy. On that hypothesis, Mr Cardona would have been sole legal owner and sole and absolute beneficial owner, but for his bankruptcy.

In those circumstances references to the office of trustee or Mr Cardona being entitled to give a receipt in a fiduciary capacity became totally unreal.

A man could not hold property in trust for himself because in such a situation the legal and beneficial interests were merged and it would be artificial to treat them as separate. From the moment of his wife's death, and with Mr Cave's assumed disclaimer of his trusteeship relating back to that moment, no other person had any beneficial interest in the policy.

It was property which was vested in the trustee in bankruptcy in statutory trusts for Mr Cardona's creditors, and only the trustee in bankruptcy could give a good receipt for it.

That was so whether or not Black Horse had actual notice of *Mr Cardona's bankruptcy*, although if Black Horse did have notice of the bankruptcy it had to some extent brought the loss upon itself.

Lord Justice Mantell and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Pictons, St Albans; Kingsford Stacey Blackwell.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Habitual residence for income benefit

Swaddling v Adjudication Officer

Case C-90/97

Before P. Jann, President of Chamber and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, C. Gulmann, L. Sevón and M. Wathelet

Advocate General A. Saggio

(Opinion September 29, 1998)

[Judgment February 25]

A Community national who, after living and working abroad, returned to his state of origin, declared an intention to reside there, and applied for income support, could not be refused on the sole ground that he had not yet lived there long enough.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling by the Social Security Commissioner, pursuant to article 177 of the EC Treaty.

Section 124(1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 provided for the payment of income support to persons who, inter alia, were not engaged in remunerative work but were available for and seeking employment.

By regulation 21 of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967), as amended by the Income Related Benefits Scheme (Miscellaneous Regulations) (No 3) (SI 1994 No 1807) the benefit was not available to "persons from abroad" defined, inter alia, as "a claimant who is not habitually resident in the United Kingdom".

Between 1980 and 1995 the applicant, Robin Swaddling, a British national, worked mainly in France, with occasional return visits to the United Kingdom.

After being made redundant in France and unable to find further work there, he returned in January 1995 to the United Kingdom, where he lived with his brother.

On 9 January he applied for income support, declaring that he no longer wished to take a job which entailed spending long periods of time abroad. His application was rejected on the ground that he did not meet the habitual residence requirement.

In appeal proceedings, the commissioner held that for the purposes of the national legislation, "habitual residence" presupposed not only a settled intention of residing there but also an appreciable period of actual residence, that, on that footing, the applicant had become habitually resident eight weeks after his return, namely, with effect from March 4, 1995, and that his entitlement to income support therefore began on that date only.

The commissioner held further, however, that it was necessary to make a reference to the European Court of Justice to determine whether the application of Community law might lead to a different conclusion.

Article 10a(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 of June 14, 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, as consolidated in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2001/83 of June 2, 1983 (OJ 1983 L230, p6), as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1247/92 of April 30, 1992 (OJ 1992 L136, p1) provided:

"...persons to whom this Regulation applies shall be granted [certain specified benefits] in the territory of the member state in which they reside..."

Income support was one of the benefits specified.

Article 1 of the Regulation provides: "For the purpose of this Regulation: ... (h) 'residence' means habitual residence..."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the European Court of Justice held:

It was common ground that it was the applicant's intention, when he applied for income support, to reside in the United Kingdom, and the issue was as to the additional requirement of an appreciable period of actual residence.

Pursuant to article 1(h) of Regulation No 1408/71, the term "residence" for the purposes of the regulation meant habitual residence and therefore had a Community-wide meaning.

The phrase "the member state in which they reside" in article 10a referred to the state in which the persons concerned habitually resided and where the habitual centre of his interests was to be found.

In that context, account should be taken in particular of the person's family situation; the reasons which had led him to move; the length and continuity of his residence; the fact, where that was the case, that he was in stable employment, and his intention as it appeared from all the circumstances.

For the purposes of that assessment, however, the length of residence in the member state in which payment of the benefit at issue was sought could not be regarded as an intrinsic element of the concept of residence within the meaning of article 10a.

In particular, when, as in the present case, an employed person, on returning to his state of origin after exercising his right to freedom of movement, had made it clear at the time of applying for income support that he intended to remain in his state of origin, where his close relatives lived, while expressing his readiness, should the need arise in the context of some future employment, to travel from time to time to other member states, he could not be deemed not to satisfy the condition concerning residence in the meaning of article 10a merely because the period of residence completed in his state of origin was too short.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

Article 10a of Regulation No 1408/7, as amended, read together with article 1(h), precluded the member state of origin — in the case of a person who had exercised his right to freedom of movement in order to establish himself in another member state, in which he had worked and set up his habitual residence, and who had returned to his member state of origin, where his family lived, in order to seek work — from making entitlement to one of the benefits referred to in article 10a conditional on habitual residence in that state, which presupposed not only an intention to reside there, but also completion of an appreciable period of residence there.

Package travel directive not apt for student exchanges

Administrative proceedings concerning AFS Intercultural Programs Finland ry

Case C-237/97

Before President of Chamber J.-P. Puissochet and Judges C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward and L. Sevón

Advocate General A. Saggio

(Opinion July 16, 1998)

[Judgment February 11]

The Community directive on package travel did not apply to certain student exchanges.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Supreme Administrative Court, Finland, for a preliminary ruling on a question of interpretation of Council Directive 90/314/EEC of June 13, 1990 on package travel, package holidays and package tours (OJ 1990 L158 p59).

AFS organised exchange programmes for students aged between 16 and 18, sending them abroad, usually for six to 11 months, where the students attended school in the host country and *lodged with families* free of charge.

The Consumer Protection Office required AFS to register in the register of package travel businesses pursuant to the Finnish laws implementing Directive 90/314, and on its failure to do so, ordered it to suspend its business.

In its application for an order annulling that decision, AFS submitted, inter alia, that the application to it of the directive, in particular article 7 which required organisers to provide security for the refund of money paid over and repatriation in the event of insolvency, would considerably increase costs and have a detrimental effect on student exchanges.

Article 2 of the directive provides: "... (1) 'package' means the pre-arranged combination of not fewer than two of the following when sold or offered for sale at an inclusive price and when the service covers a period of more than 24 hours or includes overnight accommodation: (a) transport; (b) accommodation; (c) other tourist services not ancillary to transport or accommodation and accounting for a significant proportion..."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

Since AFS organised student travel to the host country on scheduled flights, article 2(1)(a) was satisfied. However, *the combined effect* of the type of accommodation, the student being treated as a member of the host family as if he were another child, the fact that it was free of charge, and the duration, was such that "hosting" which possessed all those characteristics could not be described as "accommodation" within article 2(1)(b).

Moreover, the selection of a school by the organiser could not be regarded as a "tourist service" within article 2(1)(c), as its specific purpose was the education of the participants, and the service comprised by the selection of a family to host a student was an ancillary service.

Finally, even supposing that preparation of the documentation necessary for a stay in another country, and the courses which the students attended with their parents before departure to prepare for life abroad, could be considered to be covered by "tourist services," they did not "account for a significant proportion of the package"

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

Directive 90/314 did not apply to travel (a) comprising student exchanges of about six months' or a year's duration; (b) the purpose of which was attendance by the student at an educational establishment in the host country in order to *familiarise himself with its people* and culture, and (c) during which the student stayed with a host family as if he were a member thereof free of charge.

Christopher Irvine detects optimism in Gateshead as Super League season dawns

Thunder ready to rumble in North East





Guardian angel: Richardson rejected offers from numerous Australian clubs to take on the challenge of trying to establish a rugby league club in one of football's heartlands

"Where the heck's Gateshead?" Occasionally, Shane Richardson reflects on those words. Richardson, a corpulent figure with an even bigger reputation in the rugby league hothouse of Sydney, still has former colleagues and friends on the telephone from Australia telling him that he is crazy — calls that will be returned with interest after Sunday night when Gateshead Thunder take their bow in the JJB Super League.

Imagine Martin Edwards packing up at Manchester United to establish a football club in the Australian outback and you get some sense of the gamble that Richardson has taken with the Gateshead franchise. You do not become state manager for Queensland of Australia's largest finance company without knowing when to back a hunch, but should the Thunder go belly-up, there is no more waterside home to return to in Australia, or much else for that matter.

Offers arrived from Adelaide, Auckland and Brisbane when Richardson, 41, announced that he was leaving Cronulla, a club that went from receivership to riches in his five years as a "hands-on" general manager. At the same time, he received a call from Kath Hetherington, who founded Sheffield Eagles with her husband, Gary, about involvement in a proposed new British club.

"Gateshead meant nothing to me. Kath said it was near Newcastle, which I'd heard of," Richardson said. "I was looking at moving back to Brisbane because Kim, my wife, was sick of moving. She stunned me when she said she'd go to England. I committed money to the business plan, but when Maurice Lindsay [the Super League Europe managing director] came out the week before the franchise decision in preference for a club in Wales, I'd given up on the idea."

That was a pity because Richardson had been sold on Gateshead by Dave Wickham, a local stalwart of the game, whose cheque he still holds in his drawer. "Dave began rugby league here in 1979 and is still playing for Gateshead Panthers at 43," Richardson said. "He regaled me with stories over a few beers, about how they began with three players, developed into the Sunderland so-and-sos, and how he was kicked out by a local rugby union club for playing league. That was passion I identified with."

In the seven months since Gateshead's admission, Richardson and Kath Hetherington have turned the club operational from scratch. It is a formidable achievement. The logistics of transporting 21 players from Australia and housing them and their families were onerous enough. Persuading first the North East business community, then a public that is force-fed a diet of football to buy into an alien sport, represent tougher propositions. Sponsorship worth £500,000 by Northern Electric and Gas caused fellow Super League clubs to sit up.

Richardson said: "When I arrived, I imagined we'd automatically get the backers, but it's only as the significance of what we're doing has sunk in, that the ball has been rolling. We've had to sell on three fronts: we're *not* rugby union, we play in summer and we're playing the best. Leeds and Wigan people have heard of."

With strong support by the Gateshead local authority, where the game is now played in 50 schools, Richardson is optimistic that Gateshead International Stadium, where the players have found facilities to be better than at many Australian clubs, will be near its 11,000 capacity for the visit of Leeds Rhinos on Sunday.

A sterner test of support will be Good Friday night on April 2 and the game against Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. The minimum average required is 5,000, which is still more than those who came to Gateshead to watch Newcastle Falcons, who returned to Kingston Park last November after two months. Unlike the Falcons, who relied on their reputation as English rugby union club champions, Gateshead have adopted the hard sell. Rugby league will never beat football for popularity but it is aiming for accessibility. Richardson said: "You can't touch Newcastle United footballers, but you can touch the Thunder. We're out in the schools and making public appearances.

"St James' Park has become almost elitist. It's £100 for a family, if you can get tickets. A night out for the family here costs £18. We're not giving tickets away, because that creates the wrong philosophy.

"Rugby league has undersold itself too long. There's no doubt about the product and we've bought a team to play attractive football. Players like Kerrod Walters and Willie Peters don't know anything else but attack. I can put the best defensive record in the world on, but who cares? That's what rugby union did here and it didn't excite anyone.

"Because of the late announcement of the franchise, we weren't able to get the quality English players we might have liked. People say we're all Aussies, but there's only one Geordie in the Newcastle United side and 36,000 still turn up. At the end of the day people want to see you win. The long-term objective is to create an all-English team."

Not a Biro has passed Richardson without his say-so. He hand-picked the players; his wife, a former fashion buyer, chose their houses and is now the club's merchandise manager. In the council leisure services department, where the Thunder are based in a room on the second floor, Richardson looked down on his new domain with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation.

> 'You can't touch Newcastle United players, but you can touch the Thunder'

"Shane Edwards rings me from Brisbane Broncos all the time to tell me I'm an idiot. Sometimes I can't believe it myself," Richardson admitted. "I'm in here at 6am. The security guard would look at me at first and say: 'Rugby league? No chance.' Now it's: 'Gateshead Thunder. I want some of that.'

"I made no bones about it to the players. I told them it'd be freezing, that they'd have to pay for television licences, but also the good things, like the welcome and passion of the people here." Richo, Angel of the North ... the folks back home can't quite believe it.



WEBSITE: www.superleague-europe.co.uk

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, Fridays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 6.35pm. Australian league coverage on Saturdays at 10am.

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE PREDICTS GLORY AT LAST FOR LEEDS AND A SEASON OF STRUGGLE FOR WAKEFIELD

1 

LEEDS RHINOS

TIPPING a side with the 20-year record of Leeds — all of the leading prizes have eluded them — carries a hazard warning, but consider the evidence. They have a head of steam up in the Challenge Cup, the strongest-looking pack, an inspirational force in Iestyn Harris and every incentive to deliver in Graham Murray's final season in charge. The platform was set last year for the Rhinos to discard their "great underachievers" tag.

Coach: Graham Murray (Aus, appt Dec 1997) **Ground:** Headingley (22,000). **1998:** Super League: 2nd. Play-offs: Grand Final runners-up. Challenge Cup: Fourth round.

Transfers: In: J Field (Huddersfield), L Jackson (Newcastle Knights), K Pratt (Featherstone) **Out:** G Brown (released), P Cantillon (Widnes), G Hewitt (Salford), G Holroyd (Halifax), T Kemp (Wakefield).

Player to watch: Ryan Sheridan.

Betting (William Hill): 11-4.

2  

WIGAN WARRIORS

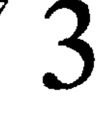
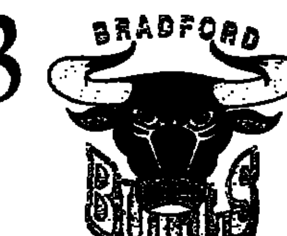
NAGGING doubts surround the champions. They will be thereabouts come October, but it is their lack of depth, traditionally Wigan's strength, that gives concern. Too many of the mainstays of last season have gone, notably Henry Paul and Robbie McCormack. Greg Florimo is no ordinary replacement for the mercurial Paul, but the suspicion is that Wigan have seen better players leave than arrive.

Coach: John Monie (Aus, Nov 1997). **Ground:** Central Park (17,200); from September, Robin Park (25,000). **1998:** Super League: 1st. Play-offs: Grand Final winners. Challenge Cup: Runners-up.

Transfers: In: G Florimo (North Sydney), B Goldspink (St Helens), M Reber (North Sydney) **Out:** S Barrow (Hull), N Baynes (Salford), M Bell (retired), D Cardiss (Halifax), S Holgate (Hull), R McCormack (retired), H Paul (Bradford), I Talbot (Wakefield), N Wright (Huddersfield)

Player to watch: *Jason Robinson.*

Betting: Evens.

3  

BRADFORD BULLS

AFTER the peak in 1997 and trough last year, Bradford can scale the heights again. They have bought impressively and are motoring in the Challenge Cup. With the Paul brothers in tandem, now Henry has joined Robbie at Odsal, inspiration is hardly in shortage. Nor is finishing power, with Nick Zisti and Michael Withers two more exciting names to watch for.

Coach: Matthew Elliott (Aus, Sept 1996) **Ground:** Odsal (25,500) **1998:** Super League: 5th Play-offs: Elimination semi-final. Challenge Cup: Fifth round.

Transfers: In: D Boyle (Canberra), S Naylor (Salford), H Paul (Wigan), L Radford (Hull), M Withers (Balmain), N Zisti (Cronulla) **Out:** G Bradley (retired), M Calland (Hull), K Crouthers (Wakefield), A Ekoku (retired), N Graham (Dewsbury), H Howard (Sydney Wests), A Hodgson (Wakefield), S Knox (released), P Medley (loan, Dewsbury), S Nickle (St Helens), T Reihana (released), J Scales (Leeds RU).

Player to watch: Henry Paul.

Betting: 3-1.

4 

ST HELENS

ELLERY HANLEY hopes that the single-minded dedication that marked his career will rub off on his players. However much it hurt to go out of the Challenge Cup, the well-worn phrase about concentrating on the league might be no bad thing. If St Helens can beat Wigan in the third round of matches, the talk of prematurely disposing of Shaun McRae (three trophies in three years) will temporarily subside. Will win more matches than they lose: possibly not the key ones.

Coach: Ellery Hanley (Eng, Nov 1998). **Ground:** Knowsley Road (19,100). **1998:** Super League: 4th. Play-offs: Final eliminator. Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals.

Transfers: In: P Adamson (Penrith), K Iro (Auckland), S Nickle (Bradford), F Tulagi (Halifax). **Out:** P Anderson (Sheffield), D Busby (Warrington), B Goldspink (Wigan), K Hammond (London), J Hayes (Salford), I Pickavance (Huddersfield), D Smith (released).

Player to watch: *Fereti Tuilagi.*

Betting: 6-1.

5  

CASTLEFORD TIGERS

YOU could perm any one of half-a-dozen clubs for the fifth play-off spot. Castleford have the credentials to clinch it as they look to sustain the momentum that has been building in the two years since Stuart Raper's arrival as coach. He is joined by his younger brother, Aaron, a quality hooker in a pack further bolstered by the signings of two giants, Darren Fritz and the ageless James Pickering.

Coach: Stuart Raper (Aus, April 1997). **Ground:** Wheldon Road (11,750). **1998:** Super League: 6th. Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals.

Transfers: In: M Eager (Warrington), D Fritz (North Queensland), A Hill (York), J Pickering (Sydney City), A Raper (Parramatta), D Rogers (Salford). **Out:** J Benn (York), D Chapman (Keighley), J Critchley (Newport RU/Widnes), M Ford (Bramley), R McKell (released), B-J Mather (Sale RU), R Russell (Bramley), A Schick (Keighley), M Smith (Hull)

Player to watch: *Danny Orr.*

Betting: 66-1.

6 

WARRINGTON WOLVES

NEW backers, new broom in Peter Deakin, who has left Saracens to become chief executive, and altogether a feel-good factor at Wilderspool, or Wilderness, as it was in danger of becoming known. After two threadbare years, Darryl van de Velde finally has the resources he deserves. Alan Hunte and Simon Gillies are fine additions. So many are returning from long-term injuries that the entire team has a fresh feel and will be tough to crack at home.

Coach: Darryl van de Velde (Aus, March 1997). **Ground:** Wilderspool (9,350). **1998:** Super League: 10th. Challenge Cup: Fifth round.

Transfers: In: D Busby (St Helens), S Gillies (Canterbury), D Hanger (Huddersfield), A Hunte (Hull). **Out:** A Doyle (released), M Eager (Castleford), V Fawcett (Wakefield), M Pechey (released), B Tuuta (Featherstone), D Whittle (released), P Wingfield (Leigh).

Player to watch: *Scott Wilson.*

Betting: 100-1.

7 

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

SHEFFIELD felt that winning the Challenge Cup last year inhibited them in the Super League, so falling at the first hurdle provides an even greater incentive to fulfil their priority of a play-off spot. There is less bulk up front but more speed out wide, where Keith Senior and Karl Lovell will cause damage. Consistency is what John Kear is after — a tricky objective in the highly competitive middle ground.

Coach: John Kear (Eng, May 1997). **Ground:** Don Valley Stadium (25,000). **1998:** Super League: 8th. Challenge Cup: Winners.

Transfers: In: P Anderson (St Helens), S Baldwin (Halifax), J Hardy (Sydney St George), K Lovell (Parramatta), M Pearson (Halifax), D Powell (Halifax). **Out:** P Broadbent (Halifax), P Carr (Australia), W Flynn (Batley), W Morganson (Australia), N Law (loan, Wakefield), N Pinkney (Halifax), L Stott (Wakefield), W Taewa (Hull KR), M Wood (Keighley).

Player to watch: Keith Senior.

Betting: 200-1.

8 

LONDON BRONCOS

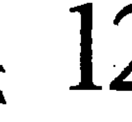
LONDON flattered to deceive in 1998. They bought big names, who often let them down. Under Dan Stains, the latest Australian coaching whizz, the Broncos are building steadily, quietly and with a resolute purpose. All-English halfbacks, in Shaun Edwards — in his second spell at The Stoop — and Karle Hammond, makes a change. They have enough streetwise Australians, too, to ensure that London will make life difficult for even the best sides.

Coach: Dan Stains (Aus, Nov 1998). **Ground:** Stoop Memorial (10,000). **1998:** *Super League: 7th. Challenge Cup: Semi-finals.*

Transfers: In: D Bradstreet (Illawarra), D Calloway (Illawarra), G Fleming (Canterbury Bulldogs), *K Hammond (St Helens)*, A Seibold (Canberra), R Simpson (Sydney St George), N Sologinkin (Canberra), B Warton (Sydney Wests). **Out:** M Carroll (South Sydney), *A Fatnowna, I Higgins (both Hunslet)*, M Salter (West Hartlepool RU), M Dunford, S Rosolen, T Matterson (all retired), R Best, D Chapman, W Cotton, L Goodwin, *D Higgins, N Mardon (all released)*

Player to watch: Karle Hammond.

Betting: 33-1.

9  

HALIFAX BLUE SOX

FROM third place to ninth is some fall, and most got it wrong about Halifax last season, so John Pendlebury (1998 coach of the year) can lob more eggs at ignorant pundits if the Blue Sox reach the play-offs for a second year. This season the competition looks tougher, as was indicated by an early departure from the Challenge Cup at the hands of Warrington, whom Halifax meet at the New Shay on Sunday. The Blue Sox have equipped themselves modestly with a clutch of English recruits, notably Paul Broadbent and Graham Holroyd, but have lost out in the backs, to St Helens with the prolific Fereti Tuilagi.

Coach: John Pendlebury (Eng, March 1997) **Ground:** New Shay (11,000) **1998:** Super League: 3rd. Play-offs: Elimination semi-final. Challenge Cup: Fifth round.

Transfers: In: P Broadbent (Sheffield), D Cardiss (Wigan), A Craig (Swinton), G Holroyd (Leeds), N Pinkney (Sheffield), C Randall (Salford) **Out:** S Baldwin (Sheffield), J Bentley (Huddersfield), C Dean (Leigh), K Harrison (Hull), M Hall (Hull), M Pearson (Sheffield), M Perrett (Oldham), D Powell (Sheffield), F Tuilagi (St Helens).

Player to watch: Gavin Clinch.

Betting: 33-1.

10 

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

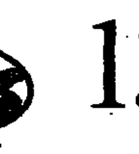
THE Giants of 1999 bear little resemblance to the cowed bunch who managed only two league victories last year. Malcolm Reilly, the first English coach to win an Australian Grand Final, with Newcastle Knights in 1997, has returned to the domestic game as determined as ever. Natural talent already at the club in Bobbie Goulding and Danny Russell has been supplemented from overseas by a no-nonsense trio of Jim Lenihan, Andrew Tangata-Toa and David Boughton, plus Nigel Wright and John Bentley.

Coach: Malcolm Reilly (Eng, Nov 1998). **Ground:** McAlpine Stadium (25,000) **1998:** Super League: 12th Challenge Cup: Fourth round.

Transfers: In: J Bentley (Halifax), D Boughton (Gold Coast), J Lenihan (Sydney St George), I Pickavance (St Helens), A Tangata-Toa (Sydney St George), N Wright (Wigan). **Out:** G Adams (released), A Belle (released), J Field (Leeds), D Hanger (Warrington), P Jackson (Wakefield), L Milner (Dewsbury), C Orr (Oldham), G Schofield (Doncaster), J Wittenberg (released) B Barton, P Veivers (both retired).

Player to watch: Nigel Wright.

Betting: 40-1.

11  

GATESHEAD THUNDER

IF the Thunder can begin their great adventure with a lightning bolt by beating Leeds on Sunday, it is not just the good folk of Gateshead who will sit up. No committed bunch of Australians can be taken lightly, and Gateshead have the players to cause upsets and rattle cages, plus a Super League-winning coach in Shaun McRae. It is a question of a small squad staying injury-free. Over a 30-match programme, the demands will take their toll.

Coach: Shaun McRae (Aus, Oct 1998). **Ground:** Gateshead International Stadium (11,800).

Squad: B Sammut (Cronulla), M Daylight (Adelaide), D Bird (Adelaide), C Simon (Illawarra), I Herron (Sydney St George), W Robinson (Illawarra), W Peters (South Sydney), D Lee (Cronulla), K Walters (Adelaide), L Felsch (Sydney St George), C Wilson (Illawarra), A Hick (Adelaide), T Grimaldi (Canterbury Bulldogs), S Collins (Featherstone), D Maiden (Cairns), A Maher (Rochdale), B Grogan (Newcastle Knights), S Allwood (Brisbane), R Allwood (Brisbane), B Green (Brisbane), R Hugill (Gateshead Academy), B Carney (Dublin Blues), S Singleton (UWIC).

Player to watch: Willie Peters.

Betting: 100-1.

12  

SALFORD REDS

SALFORD have picked up bargains in the player market and look stronger and more committed, which also goes for Andy Gregory, whose brushes with authority and personal battles are consigned to the past. Again it is about strength in depth and Salford lack the sufficient quality to withstand an arduous programme and finish outside the bottom three while sustaining their present cup run. Fun guaranteed if Gregory can disprove the doubters.

Coach: Andy Gregory (Eng, March 1995). **Ground:** The Willows (12,000). **1998:** Super League: 11th Challenge Cup: Semi-finals.

Transfers: In: N Baynes (Wigan), C Briggs (Wakefield), D Brown (Penrith), P Cange (Parramatta), G Casey (Wakefield), J Hayes (St Helens), G Hewitt (Leeds), M Johnson (Hull), C Makin (Widnes), H Smith (Balmain), B Thompson (Penrith). **Out:** A Burgess (Rochdale), P Coussons (Rochdale), C Eccles (Swinton), P Edwards (York), P Forber (Workington), P Hassan (Worcester RU), S Kenward (Wakefield), S Naylor (Bradford), A Platt (Workington), C Randall (Halifax), D Rogers (Castleford), L Savelio (Widnes), J White (Workington).

Player to watch: Darren Brown.

Betting: 200-1

13 

HULL SHARKS

MODEST success would see five-figure crowds back at the Boulevard, but despite re-inforcement of their pack, Hull remain hampered by a thin squad, which will be at full stretch from the start tomorrow. The Sharks are served as the ritual sacrifice for Wigan at Central Park, where they have not won since 1992. There will be one or two scalps on the way, but the consistency which Peter Walsh seeks will probably elude him again. At least with David Lloyd committed to Hull, the club should be spared last year's turmoil behind the scenes.

Coach: Peter Walsh (Aus, July 1997). **Ground:** Boulevard (11,000). **1998:** Super League: 9th. Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals.

Transfers: In: S Barrow (Wigan), M Calland (Bradford), M Hall, K Harrison (both Halifax), S Holgate (Wigan), A Purcell (Illawarra), R Roberts (Keighley), M Smith (Castleford). **Out:** M David (Bramley), K Grey (Hull KR), J Donohue, B Hepi (both released), A Hunte (Warrington), M Johnson (Salford), H Okesene (Featherstone), L Radford (Bradford), D Stephenson (Rochdale); J Temu (Newcastle Knights), G Tomlinson (Wakefield).

Player to watch: Craig Murdock.

Betting: 150-1.

14  

WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS

AVOID relegation or bust. Everything about Wakefield's admission to the Super League looks to be a gamble. If they do not survive, there is an awful precedent of the late Oldham Bears being relegated and going out of business. Belle Vue is crumbling, so some games will be played at Barnsley FC.

Coach: Andy Kelly (Eng, June 1997). **Grounds:** Belle Vue (10,000)/Oakwell, Barnsley FC (18,806). **1998:** First division: 1st. Play-offs: First division Grand Final winners. Challenge Cup: Fourth round.

Transfers: In: A Brunker (Sydney St George), K Crouthers (Bradford), V Fawcett (Warrington), A Hodgson (Bradford), A Hughes (Leeds), P Jackson (Huddersfield), T Kemp (Leeds), S Kenward (Salford), N Law (loan, Sheffield), W Poching (Sydney St George), G Price (Featherstone), L Stott (Sheffield), I Talbot (Wigan), G Tomlinson (Hull), F Watene (Auckland), S Watene (Auckland). **Out:** J Bostock (Oldham), C Briggs (Salford), G Casey (Salford), M Fuller (released), S Hicks (Dewsbury), R Horsley (Featherstone), I Hughes (Hull KR), C Judge (York), R Kenworthy (released), M Law (Featherstone), G Lord (Batley), D Mycoe (Hunslet), S Whakarau (released), J Wray (Hull KR).

Player to watch: Tony Kemp.

Betting: 2,000-1.

RACING

Cashman trades on policy of naming his price

By Chris McGrath

HIS name is Cashman and he opened his first betting shop in Blarney Street, so it is not as if punters lacked fair warning. In the intervening 27 years, however, they have obliged with so much business, notably over the telephone, that his Cork offices are now a key observation post in the Cheltenham Festival front line.

Military metaphor — entrenchment, big guns, going over the top — is frequently enlisted to describe the three most frantic punting days in the calendar. While hostilities do not formally commence until Tuesday week, however, Liam Cashman has been persisting with guerrilla tactics throughout the past 12 months.

"Immediately the bumper had been run last year, we had inquiries for a price against Alexander Banquet, the winner, for the 1999 Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle," Cashman said yesterday. "Also for odds about Joe Mac, the second, in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle. We went 10-1 the two of them, and they're now both 3-1 favourite."

Cashman and another Irish layer, Paddy Power, have long embarrassed the big British chains with their Festival betting, offering prices much earlier and on many more races. British punters owe them a debt of gratitude for coaxing, over the past year or two, a bit more ante-post adventure from the craven behemoths on home soil.

It is possible, nowadays, to monitor the progress of a horse towards the status of Cheltenham "banker". Typically the fate of these three or four horses, invariably Irish-trained, will determine the overall fortunes of the Festival war. Bankers will frequently be linked together in doubles and trebles, and success has recently assured the likes of Danoli, Wither Or Which, Istabraq and Florida Pearl a cherished place in Irish racing folklore.

Florida Pearl, seeking his third Festival win, has been a particular menace to Cashman, as he is owned by the wife of a local businessman, Archie O'Leary. "He was a disaster in the bumper two years ago, because he was such a terrible starting-price result," Cashman said. "We were laying 3-1 all the previous week, yet he went off at 6-1 on the day. He wasn't quite so bad last year, because on the Thursday we had Dorans Pride, Paddy's Return and Elegant Lord all turned over."

The tone will be set this year in the first race, where the market has long been dominated by Joe Mac and Cardinal Hill — both owned by the icon of Irish punters, J. P. McManus.

Alexander Banquet is the cornerstone of many multiples in Cashman's ledger, while banker status also looms for Nick Dundee (provided he is kept to novice company) and Lanturn (National Hunt Chase).

Emphatically his busiest book, however, is the Weatherbys Champion Bumper. "We are holding as much on that as the rest of the meeting put together," Cashman said. "We have laid bets of £1,000 or more on ten individual horses and £500 on a further ten." In the Gold Cup, meanwhile, Cashman wants to lay Teeton Mill. "I just can't see him winning. In that hunter chase at Cheltenham, he floundered worse than One Man."

As a young man in England, Cashman worked in a betting shop by day, behind a bar in the evenings, and drove a minicab by night. He is ready to join battle and even offers a banker of his own, Makounji in the Cathcart Chase.

She is trained in England, but the special flavour of the Festival — and its slightly manic betting edge — is supplied by his compatriots. "I love the cut and thrust," he said. "It's like the rugby this weekend. If Ireland have any spark about them, they'll raise their game against England, just like the Scots and the Welsh. It'll be the same story at Cheltenham."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Flying Officer, ridden by Tim Sprake, stretches clear of his rivals to give Sir Mark Prescott a winner on his birthday on the all-weather at Wolverhampton yesterday

Swinburn puts back return to race-riding

By Chris McGrath

WHILE he bravely insists that his perseverence will eventually pay off, the odds against Walter Swinburn making another comeback remain dispiriting. A statement issued by his family yesterday conceded that the troubled jockey will miss the start of the Flat turf season, three weeks today at Doncaster.

"Walter is still working towards a resumption of his riding career," the statement said. "He is engaged in a long-term programme with experts and counsellors aimed at resolving the major problem of his weight. It is taking longer than expected and has not been easy. He is still positive but unfortunately will not be back in time for the start of the Flat."

Last year Swinburn, rider of three Derby winners, confounded expectations with a heartening return from ten months of self-imposed exile, riding 51 winners with apparently undiminished flair. In August, however, he succumbed to a relapse of his weight problems and their associated torments. At 37, he must defeat inevitable scepticism that he can make it back yet again.

Swinburn's young colleague, Antonio Polli, experienced a different low of the profession when stretchered off the course at Wolverhampton yesterday. The apprentice, unseated from Another Lover on the way to the start for the seller, was taken to hospital for precautionary X-rays.

With the Cheltenham Festival looming, National Hunt jockeys will be particularly keen to avoid injury or suspension. Mick Fitzgerald was yesterday cut from 14-1 to 7-1 in Coral's opening day of trading on the London Clubs Charity Trophy for leading rider at the meeting. Tony McCoy is 13-8 favourite to win the prize for the third



Swinburn: return delayed

year running, followed by Norman Williamson at 11-4. Richard Dunwoody is 7-1, Charlie Swan 10-1, Paul Carberry and Joe Tizzard 14-1, and Richard Johnson at 16-1.

Fitzgerald's book of rides includes Call Equiname in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. Tizzard is stable jockey to the horse's trainer, Paul Nicholls, but the teenager has instead been told to ride the rank outsider, Green Green Desert.

THUNDERER

2.00 Amoroso
2.30 Native Charm
3.00 Baraguey
3.30 Symbol Of Success
4.00 Wilmott's Fancy
4.30 Marching Marquis
5.00 Ososhot

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 NATIVE CHARM.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Mr Golightly.

GOING: CHASES: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES); HURDLES: SOFT
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 CORVEDALE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,626: 2m) (14 runners)

101 B14 BRILLIANT STAR 26 (CO,S) (T G K Construction Ltd) S Brookshaw 7-11-8 A Dobbin 67
102 04P0P6 BON LUCK 126 (M Ephgrave) B Preece 7-11-2 Mr H Ephgrave (7) 31
103 P/ CHARLIE BIGTIME 498F (I Brown) I Brown 9-11-2 Mr A Brown –
104 0P DOUBLE RUSH 14 (Barneby Partnership) T Keddy 7-11-2 B Powell –
105 00/ GENERAL KILLINEY 694 (D Caro) D Caro 7-11-2 D Leahy –
106 3 MOSCOW MIST 14 (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 8-11-2 W Marston 63
107 2P-3PR RACHEL'S BOY 12P (J Brown) J L Brown 6-11-2 R Studholme (5) –
108 340565 WEET AND SEE 12F (E Weetman (Haulage & Storage)) T Wall 5-11-2 Gary Lyons 65
109 -6PP3R WELSH HARVEST 26 (Berkshire Commercial Com. Ltd) D Williams 7-11-2 D Griffiths –
110 PP-255 LEADING NOTE 83 (Leaders) Miss H Knight 5-10-11 DOUBTFUL 88
111 421 AMOROSO 48 (S) (Barlow Boys) N Henderson 4-10-9 M A Fitzgerald
112 DANZIG FLYER 54F (Mrs R Farrington-Kirkham) B Baugh 4-10-8 E Husband –
113 2550 SADDLERS' ROE 17 (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 4-10-8 R Johnson 96
114 44 TUI 22F (Dragon Racing) P Bowen 4-10-3 J R Kavanagh 55

BETTING: 10-11 Amoroso, 4-1 Brilliant Star, 5-1 Moscow Mist, 6-1 Saddlers' Roe, 12-1 Tui, 20-1 others.

1998: POLYDAMAS 5-11-8 N Williamson (4-5 fav) K Bailey 17 ran

Brilliant Star 30l 4th of 14 to Ricardo in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy), previously beat Father Krismas 2l in 16-runner maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft) with Weet And See (6lb better off) 13l 5th. Bon Luck 40l 6th of 9 to Chopin in selling hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good to soft). Moscow Mist 21l 3rd of 12 to Auetaler in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Leading Note 14l 5th of 8 to Cashaplenty in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good); previously 15l 5th of 11 to Brush With Time in novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). Amoroso beat Goodwood Cavalier ½l in 6-runner 4yo maiden hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy); previously 6l 2nd of 9 to New Bird in 3yo novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft). Saddlers' Roe beaten a distance 12th of 16 to What A Fuss in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 30l 5th of 11 to Dangerus Precedent in 4yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft). Tui 7l 4th of 11 to Take A Turn in 3yo novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, firm), previously 25l 4th of 9 to Nawns Samson in 3yo novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to firm).

MOSCOW MIST shaped well in an above-average maiden on his hurdling debut

2.30 TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) EBF MARES NOVICES CHASE (QUALIFIER) (£3,838: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

201 2-F112 NATIVE CHARM 34 (G,S) (Pell Mell Partners) C Morlock 7-11-8 J A McCarthy
202 04-5F1 FORTYTWO DEE 75 (S) (Triumph International Ltd) A Carroll 9-11-2 W Marston 88
203 3P-000 GLEVUM 14 (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-10 C Llewellyn –
204 01-P23 LA BRIGANTINE 20 (S) (R Buckler) R Buckler 6-10-10 B Powell 111
205 4-005 MILFORD WAY 13 (T Chick) T George 6-10-10 O McPhail (5) –
206 3PR-UU TIGER PAWS 26 (S) (Mr & Mrs S Hope) P R Webber 9-10-10 S Wynne –

BETTING: 8-13 Native Charm, 4-1 Fortytwo Dee, 7-1 La Brigantine, 8-1 Tiger Paws, 16-1 Glevum, 50-1 Milford Way

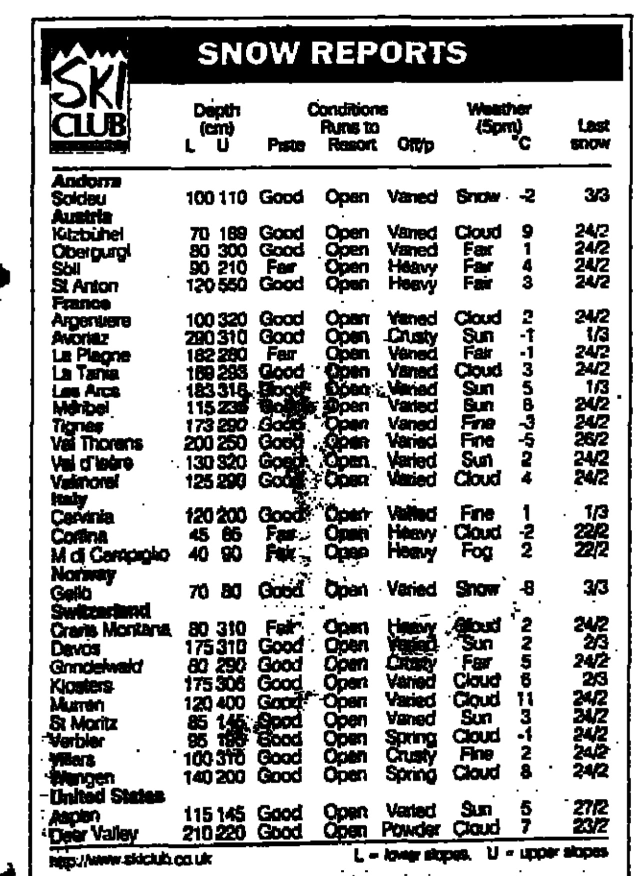
1998: LADY HIGH SHERIFF 8-10-10 N Williamson (13-8 fav) T Forster 8 ran

Native Charm 12l 2nd of 5 to Wynyard Knight in novice chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously beat River Wye 4l in 5-runner novice chase at Warwick (2m, good to soft). Fortytwo Dee beat The Bargeman 18l in 10-runner novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, heavy). Glevum 64l 7th of 15 to Plaid Maid in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 16l 8th of 17 to Reggae Beat in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). La Brigantine 17l 3rd of 11 to River Wye in novice handicap chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good), previously ½l 2nd of 8 to Mr Jervis in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, soft). Milford Way beaten a distance 5th of 9 to Couer Campione in novice hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, soft)

NATIVE CHARM ran into a smart sort latest and now has a good opportunity to go one better

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
N Henderson	11	27	40.7	R Dunwoody	12	49	24.5
D Nicholson	20	56	35.7	N Williamson	14	64	21.9
Miss V Williams	7	20	35.0	J Osborne	6	28	21.4
M Pipe	25	99	25.3	R Johnson	23	114	20.2
T Forster	14	78	17.9	M Fitzgerald	11	57	19.3



SNOW REPORTS — SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	100	110	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-2	3/3
Austria								
Kitzbühel	70	189	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	9	24/2
Obergurgl	80	300	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	1	24/2
Söll	90	210	Fair	Open	Heavy	Fair	4	24/2
St Anton	120	550	Good	Open	Heavy	Fair	3	24/2
France								
Argentiere	100	320	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	2	24/2
Avoriaz	290	310	Good	Open	Crusty	Sun	-1	1/3
La Plagne	182	280	Fair	Open	Varied	Fair	-1	24/2
La Tania	189	298	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	3	24/2
Les Arcs	183	315	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	1/3
Méribel	115	238	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	24/2
Tignes	173	290	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-3	24/2
Val Thorens	200	250	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-5	26/2
Val d'Isère	130	320	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	24/2
Valmorel	125	290	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	24/2
Italy								
Cervinia	120	200	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	1	1/3
Cortina	45	65	Fair	Open	Heavy	Cloud	-2	22/2
M di Campiglio	40	90	Fair	Open	Heavy	Fog	2	22/2
Norway								
Geilo	70	80	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-8	3/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	80	310	Fair	Open	Heavy	Cloud	2	24/2
Davos	175	310	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	2/3
Grindelwald	80	290	Good	Open	Crusty	Fair	5	24/2
Klosters	175	308	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	6	2/3
Murren	120	400	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	11	24/2
St Moritz	85	145	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	24/2
Verbier	85	165	Good	Open	Spring	Cloud	-1	24/2
Villars	100	310	Good	Open	Crusty	Fine	2	24/2
Wengen	140	200	Good	Open	Spring	Cloud	8	24/2
United States								
Aspen	115	145	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	27/2
Deer Valley	210	220	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	7	23/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk — L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

3.00 CLEE HILL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,542: 2m 5f 110yd) (15 runners)

301 -1216P SALEEL 26 (D,S) (Waterhall Racing) Mrs L Wadham 7-12-0 Mr R Forristal (5)
302 BARAGUEY 218F (A Smith) C Egerton 5-11-2 J Osborne –
303 FFU34/ BROTHER NERO 668 (F Arthur) A Hobbs 7-11-2 Guy Lewis (3) –
304 4P BRUSHFIRE 62 (I Castle) Miss V Williams 6-11-2 N Williamson –
305 CALLED TO THE BAR (B Meadmore) P Rich 6-11-2 M Griffiths (5) –
306 000/0P ELEGANT SPECTACLE 128 (Lady Blyth) S Brookshaw 9-11-2 S Wynne –
307 P-5608 FRED FUGGLES 30 (B H R W Racing Partnership) C Jackson 7-11-2 O Burrows (5) 62
308 00405 MEADOWS BOY 9 (R Edwards) B Palling 7-11-2 W Marston –
309 5006 MONTE'S MAGIC 64 (J Brown) C Mann 8-11-2 J Magee –
310 MOON RIVER 229F (N Shutts) Miss K Marks 5-11-2 V Slattery –
311 00P SHAH 15 (P Kelsall) A Hobbs 6-11-2 T Dascombe 21
312 40/06 TOMMY TICKLE 68 (C Price) C M Price 7-11-2 J R Kavanagh –
313 006F45 WESTCOAST 42 (B) (M Tate) M Tate 8-11-2 C Llewellyn 75
314 02P-40 BE IN SPACE 17 (L Phipps) Mrs P Ford 8-10-11 O McPhail (5) 68
315 50-5P BROWN SEAL 34 (Mrs P Corbett) Mrs M Jones 7-10-11 A Dobbin –

BETTING: 9-4 Baraguey, 5-2 Saleel, 11-4 Brushfire, 10-1 Meadows Boy, Westcoast, 14-1 Be In Space, 25-1 others.

1998: SHIRLEY VENTURE 5-10-11 S Kelly (10-1) Miss V Williams 13 ran

Saleel pulled up in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously 39l 6th of 7 to Birkdale in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft). Baraguey middle-distance winner on the Flat in France. Brother Nero 8l 4th of 12 to Bramshaw Wood in national hunt flat race at Exeter (2m 2f, good). Brushfire pulled up in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft), previously 24l 4th of 11 to Matt Holland in maiden nat hunt flat at Worcester (2m, heavy). Meadows Boy 32l 5th of 15 to In Question in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Westcoast 32l 5th of 13 to Tap On Tootsie in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously 3l 4th of 14 to Picket Piece in novice handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Be In Space 22l 7th of 16 to What A Fuss in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft); previously 16l 4th of 12 to Salberry in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good).

SALEEL can benefit from this return to novice company after contesting handicaps his last two starts

3.30 FORBRA GOLD CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£5,394: 3m) (4 runners)

401 -RR056 PIMBERLEY PLACE 20 (B,CD,G,S) (A Cresser) N Twiston-Davies 11-12-0 C Llewellyn 132
402 14-3P1 SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 13 (D,F,G,S) (N O T Racing) D Williams 8-11-11 R Johnson 123
403 31-3PF STANMORE 72 (F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 7-11-1 G Bradley
404 113321 ROYAL BARGE 77 (D,F,G,S) (E Harries) P Bowen 9-11-1 R Dunwoody 129

BETTING: 7-4 Royal Barge, 2-1 Symbol Of Success, 3-1 Stanmore, 11-2 Pimberley Place.

1998: PIMBERLEY PLACE 10-11-1 C Llewellyn (25-1) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

Pimberley Place 48l 6th of 9 to Lady Cricket in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft), previously 41l last of 5 to Globe Runner in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Symbol Of Success beat Eulogy 7l in 6-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft). Stanmore fell in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m 4f, good), 19l 3rd of 9 to Royal Event in handicap chase at Stratford (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) when last completing. Royal Barge beat Saxon Duke 3l in 10-runner handicap chase at Exeter (3m 2f, soft), previously 3l 2nd of 7 to Clever Remark in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good).

ROYAL BARGE has taken well to chasing and remains on an attractive mark

4.00 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE] (£5,455: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

501 -32113 WILMOTT'S FANCY 7 (BF,S) (Mrs J Peatherer) Miss V Williams 7-11-13 N Williamson 93
502 602-2 RUSTY REEL 10 (S) (O Stokes) W G M Turner 9-11-11 J Power (7) 13
503 2F21PP WOODSTOCK WANDERER 68 (F,G,S) (G Morris) P Bowen 7-10-7 W Marston
504 246013 ADVANCE EAST 17 (G,S) (A Hutchings) C Popham 7-10-7 O McPhail (5) 109
505 1-2330 MR SNAGGLE 45 (F,S) (Plum Merchants) Simon Earle 10-10-2 J A McCarthy 80
506 0336F4 FLAHIVE'S FIRST 20 (G) (D Gould) R J Price 5-10-0 R Johnson 98
507 -20F06 GUNNER SID 110 (M Ephgrave) B Preece 8-10-0 Mr H Ephgrave (7) 55
508 0P-P54 TWO LORDS 40 (P Kennedy) M Tate 7-10-0 C Llewellyn 72

Long handicap: Flahive's First 9-11, Gunner Sid 9-3, Two Lords 8-9

BETTING: 4-5 Wilmott's Fancy, 7-2 Rusty Reel, 7-1 Advance East, 12-1 Mr Snaggle, Woodstock Wanderer, 14-1 Flahive's First, 33-1 Gunner Sid, Two Lords.

1998: MADAM MUCK 7-10-12 C Llewellyn (2-1 fav) N Twiston-Davies 13 ran

Wilmott's Fancy 3¼l 3rd of 11 to Lord Noelie in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft), previously beat Bora Bora 8l in 16-runner mares novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Rusty Reel 3l 2nd of 7 to Master Pegasus in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft), previously 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Lord Sultan in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Advance East 9l 3rd of 7 to It's Wallace in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft), previously beat Tylo Steamer 2½l in 7-runner selling hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). Mr Snaggle 26l 8th of 19 to Memsahib Ofesteem in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously 9l 3rd of 10 to Cardinal Rule in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Flahive's First 19l 4th of 17 to Roker Joker in novice handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft). Gunner Sid 47l 6th of 13 to Lotschberg Express in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to soft). Two Lords 50l 4th of 10 to Windross in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft).

RUSTY REEL has stood little racing in recent seasons but appears to retain plenty of ability

4.30 LUDLOW GOLD CUP (HUNTERS CHASE) (£1,564: 3m) (11 runners)

601 FP33-6 CELTIC ABBEY 19 (D,F,G,S) (G Powell) Mrs C Hardinge 11-12-7 Mr D S Jones (3)
602 14F-3P THE WHOLE HOG 148 (F) (G Briscoe) G Briscoe 10-12-7 Mr C Stockton (5) 77
603 4113P- NODFORM WONDER 278 (C,D,F,G,S) (D Malam) R Bevis 12-12-4 DOUBTFUL 51
604 3P31-3 CLOBRACKEN LAD 18P (D,F) Miss L Blackford 11-12-0 Mr S Kidston (7) –
605 4-F004 DESERT CALM 20 (R Fuller) D McCain 10-12-0 Mr D Dickenson (7) 72
606 F4P2-P EAU SO SLOE 20 (F Matthews) F Matthews 8-12-0 Mr A Bateman (7) –
607 2P6-P2 HIGHWAY FIVE 5P (B,D,G,S) Lady S Brooke 11-12-0 Miss E James (7) 82
608 2130/3 MARCHING MARQUIS 14 (BF,F,S) (R Brown) G Brown 8-12-0 Mr T Gibney (3) 57
609 2-PP-2 MR GOLIGHTLY 20 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs B Cobden) Mrs J Reed 12-12-0 Mrs J Reed (5) 38
610 3-43PP NATIVE RAMBLER 17 (D,S) (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 9-12-0 Mr S Blackwell (7) 66
611 0P53-P PANT LLIN 7 (B,D,F) (F Matthews) F Matthews 13-12-0 Mr D O'Meara (7) –

BETTING: 5-4 Celtic Abbey, 2-1 Mr Golightly, 11-4 Marching Marquis, 12-1 Clobracken Lad, Highway Five, 20-1 The Whole Hog, 50-1 others.

1998: LANDERSTOWN 10-12-0 Miss C Thomas (10-11) R Mathias 8 ran

Celtic Abbey 68l 6th of 10 to Varykinov in hunter chase at Haydock (3m, soft), previously 17l 3rd of 10 to Stanmore in handicap chase at Stratford (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). The Whole Hog pulled up in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good), previously 12l 3rd of 6 to Some Day Soon in handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to firm). Nodform Wonder pulled up in hunter chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good), previously 14l 3rd of 11 to Shady Emma in hunter chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good). Clobracken Lad beat Link Copper 2l in 4-runner novice hunter chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, firm). Marching Marquis 3½l 3rd of 15 to Around The Horn in hunter chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good), previously 23l 8th of 17 to Istabraq in novice hurdle grade 1 at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Mr Golightly 4l 2nd of 13 to Dawn D'Estruval in hunter chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Desert Calm (7lb worse off) 46l 4th and Eau So Sloe (7lb worse off) pulled up. Pant Llin pulled up in hunter chase at Huntingdon (3m, good), previously beaten a distance 5th of 13 to Nodform Wonder (3lb better off) in hunter chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good)

MARCHING MARQUIS ran well in a similar event at Sandown recently and has solid claims here

5.00 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT (£1,494: 2m) (14 runners)

1 10 FU'S BABY 66 (S) (Mrs A Malde) M Pipe 5-11-11 R Johnson
2 06 BORN OF FUBAR 12 (R Luders-Gibbs) Mrs T Luders-Gibbs 5-11-4 W Marston 63
3 DERRINTOGHER YANK (Con O'Connor) S Sherwood 5-11-4 D Gallagher –
4 0 LYPHSTAR 86 (A Frost) D Gandolfo 5-11-4 G Bradley 63
5 OSOSHOT (Mrs Jeanne Horton) Miss V Williams 6-11-4 N Williamson –
6 U PETTREE 28 (Pabbler Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 Mr A Evans (7) –
7 4 PUZZLEMAN 84 (D Caro) D Caro 5-11-4 D Leahy 40
8 WUNJO (D J Equine Supplies Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 C Llewellyn –
9 0 MAGGIE MAY 42 (M Ephgrave) B Preece 6-10-13 Mr H Ephgrave (7) –
10 05 SPARKLING LASS 104 (R Simson) N Ayliffe 5-10-13 B Powell 25
11 FLOOREX CARPETMAN (Nigel Coulson-Stevens) A Carroll 4-10-10 Mr M Rodda –
12 0 GRAND COMMANCHE 7 (P Harris) W G M Turner 4-10-10 J Power (7) –
13 HAUT CERCY (Capt T Forster) T Forster 4-10-10 M A Fitzgerald –
14 FROSTY BELLE (M Denlon) A Hobbs 4-10-5 Guy Lewis (3) –

BETTING: 9-4 Ososhot, 3-1 Wunjo, 4-1 Fu's Baby, 7-1 Derrintogher Yank, Pettree, 12-1 Haut Cercy, 20-1 others.

1998: BOSUNS MATE 5-11-4 C Llewellyn (8-13 fav) N Twiston-Davies 13 ran

Fu's Baby beaten a distance 7th of 8 to Prominent Profile in nat hunt flat (grade 2) at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft); previously beat Ballyinabragget 4l in 10-runner national hunt flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). Born Of Fubar 25l 6th of 16 to Toggi Dancer in national hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, good to soft). Lyphstar 27l 8th of 17 to Canasta in national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Ososhot Teenoso gelding, half-brother to champion hurdler Celtic Shot. Puzzleman 14l 4th of 12 to Happy Hussar in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Wunjo Lord Americo gelding out of a maiden hurdler. Sparkling Lass 22l 5th of 12 to Robo-rella in mares national hunt flat at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft). Floorex Carpetman Dancing Brave gelding out of winning hurdler. Charmed I'm Sure.

FU'S BABY is worth another chance to confirm the promise of his debut victory

THUNDERER

2.10 TAIN TON (nap). 2.40 Almapa. 3.10 Trouble Ahead. 3.40 Blackwater Brave. 4.10 Bells Wood. 4.40 Dovetto. 5.10 Falcon Ridge.

Carl Evans: 4.10 Ardstown.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

2.10 TAUNTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,371: 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 /154 TAIN TON 42 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-9 C Maude
2 0-00 CACCINI 49 C Popham 5-11-2 R Farrant 27
3 .0P CASA FINA 30 M Pipe 6-11-2 G Supple (3) –
4 66 DEAR DEAL 24 R Buckler 6-11-2 R Thornton –
5 60F3 GURU RINPOCHE 30 R Frost 7-11-2 J Frost 59
6 HICCUP R Alner 8-11-2 A Thornton –
7 5/3P LONGSTONE LAD 15 G Edwards 7-11-2 S Burrough 15
8 PF44 SANDORAN 29 M Hill 6-11-2 D Salter 64
9 0504 BONNET 17 R Curtis 5-10-11 J Leach 26
10 1124 FLAGSHIP THERESE 184 (BF,G) P Nicholls 5-10-11 J Tizzard 30
11 0- ISLAND GIFT 303 T Forster 6-10-11 A Maguire –
12 40 MONTAGNETTE 94 M R Bosley 5-10-11 G Tormey –
13 0 EMPHATIC 19 J Portman 4-10-7 A David –

6-4 Flagship Therese, 7-4 Tain Ton, 7-1 Casa Fina, 12-1 Guru Rinpoche, 16-1 Sandoran, 25-1 Hiccup, Longstone Lad, Bonnet, Island Gift, Montagnette, 33-1 others.

2.40 PITMINSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,621: 2m 1f) (13)

1 3446 ALMAPA 65 (CD,F) R Hodges 7-11-10 A P McCoy 75
2 5U26 BLUE BLAZER 62 (S) R Frost 9-11-8 J Frost
3 U3U9 MEMORY'S MUSIC 49F M Madgwick 7-11-1 J Goldstein (3) 60
4 0U55 IRISH SEA 14 (D,S) B Llewellyn 6-10-13 Miss E J Jones 74
5 66-5 BLAZE OF OAK 8 P Eccles 8-10-12 Miss V Roberts (7) 80
6 -60P ROSIE-B 42 (C,G) S Knight 9-10-9 G F Ryan (5) 79
7 /0P3 KEEN BID 8 (B) Mrs L Richards 8-10-8 C Maude 58
8 4000 SARATOGA SABA 9 H Manners 4-10-7 Mr J D Moore (7) –
9 0-P0 TUDOR TOWN 75 P Purdy 11-10-5 M Sharratt 47
10 3653 GALLOPING GUNS 13 (B,D,G) B Llewellyn 7-10-5 R Thornton 78
11 02P0 BALLYKISSANN 14 D French Davis 4-10-4 J Leach 44
12 P033 SYLPHIDE 25F H Manners 4-10-0 N Newman (7) 45
13 0-6P HENBURY PRINCESS 28 B Millman 6-10-0 D Salter –

7-2 Galloping Guns, 9-2 Blue Blazer, 6-1 Almapa, Keen Bid, 8-1 Memory's Music, 10-1 Irish Sea, 12-1 Blaze Of Oak, 14-1 others.

3.10 NATWEST NOVICES CHASE (£3,193: 3m) (5)

1 F234 MILLERSFORD 19 (D,G,S) N Gaselee 8-11-3 A Thornton 115
2 3-22 HIGH IN THE CLOUDS 42 (F) H Daly 7-10-10 A P McCoy
3 P434 PARADE RACER 24 (S) P Murphy 8-10-10 R Farrant 73
4 16-4 SAINT JOSEPH 14 (D,G,S) S Young 9-10-10 Miss S Young 110
5 3/22 TROUBLE AHEAD 68 (BF) K Bailey 8-10-10 R Wakley 106

4-5 High In The Clouds, 9-4 Trouble Ahead, 9-2 Millersford, 25-1 others.

3.40 SHEPTON MALLET NOVICES HURDLE (£2,752: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 -24P BLACKWATER BRAVE 78 P Nicholls 6-11-3 J Tizzard –
2 3355 BRONHALLOW 8 (B) Mrs B Waring 6-11-3 E Byrne 57
3 -356 DERRA GLEN 45 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 C Maude 56
4 /433 GREYCOAT BOY 14 J King 7-11-3 A P McCoy 97
5 00 JANDAL 65 P Rodford 5-11-3 S Burrough –
6 4502 MASTER RASTUS 30 Mrs S Williams 6-11-3 A Maguire 85
7 322P NEWBY END 14 M Madgwick 5-11-3 I Goldstein (3)
8 0 THE DISTAFF SPY 20 M Sheppard 6-10-12 R Widger (5) –

5-2 Master Rastus, 7-2 Newby End, 4-1 Greycoat Boy, 9-2 Derra Glen, 6-1 Blackwater Brave, 7-1 Bronhallow, 66-1 Jandal, The Distaff Spy.

4.10 MITFORD SLADE CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,931: 3m) (15)

1 052P SINGLE MAN 7 J Tuck 11-13-1 Miss T Blazey (7) –
2 -UF1 ARCHER 17 (B,D,F,S) R Leeds 11-12-5 Mr A Price (7) 65
3 40/5 MISTER HORATIO 17 (D,G,S) W Lewis 9-12-5 Mr M Lewis (7) 14
4 245- CABBERY ROSE 338 (D,F,S) P Southcombe 11-12-0 Miss W Southcombe (7) 52
5 F/P- APPLE JOHN 411P (D,G) A Whiting 10-11-12 Miss P Gundry (5) –
6 U/21 BELLS WOOD 18P (D,G,S) A Dunn 10-11-12 Mr R White (3) –
7 6-60 CALL ME CITIZEN 12P (D,F,G) B Scriven 13-11-12 Mr C R Weaver (7) 17
8 U8-P J B LAD 17 (D,G,S) H Tuck 13-11-12 Miss V Roberts (5)
9 25-3 JUST BEN 19P (D,G,S) K Cumings 11-11-12 Miss J Cumings (7) –
10 421- LONESOME TRAVELLER 341P (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Hand 10-11-12 Mrs A Hand (7) –
11 U6-F PEARL DANTE 12P (D,F,G) Mrs S Mullins 9-11-12 Col R Webb-Bowen (7) –
12 21-1 ARDSTOWN 19P (D,S) R F Knipe 8-11-7 Mr T Dennis (7) –
13 2F1- FLYING MARIA 278P (D,F,G) J S Papworth 8-11-7 Mr C Heard (7) –
14 42-P LADY LIR 19P (D,S) S Young 10-11-7 Miss S Young (7) –
15 1-33 LILY THE LARK 17 (D,F,G,S) Miss H Irving 11-11-7 Miss H Irving (7) 46

3-1 Bells Wood, 4-1 Mister Horatio, 5-1 Flying Maria, 7-1 Lily The Lark, 8-1 Lonesome Traveller, 10-1 Ardstown, 12-1 Archer, 14-1 Just Ben, 16-1 others.

4.40 ROYAL BATH & WEST NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,241: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 -355 SOL MUSIC 35 (S) J King 7-11-10 A P McCoy 74
2 FF32 MISS PENNYHILL 17 (D,B) A Sadik 6-11-5 R Widger (5) 101
3 5110 CADDY'S FIRST 9 (D,F,G,S) H Howe 7-11-1 G Supple (3) 99
4 -65P CAWARRA BOY 17 (B,D,S) E L James 11-10-13 Michael Brennan 44
5 5-24 GIVE AND TAKE 31 (S) R Frost 6-10-13 J Frost –
6 031P HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 14 (C,S) R Hodges 8-10-11 R Thornton 99
7 4442 DOVETTO 10 (S) C J Price 10-10-6 A Maguire
8 /P32 SPY DESSA 48 A Newcombe 11-10-0 L Aspell 94
9 62/U FEVER PITCH 16 R Hodges 9-10-0 P Holley –
10 5P30 TEE TEE TOO 17 C Jackson 7-10-0 R Bellamy 100

2-1 Dovetto, 4-1 Miss Pennyhill, 9-2 Sol Music, 6-1 Caddy's First, Spy Dessa, 16-1 Hightown Cavalier, 20-1 Give And Take, 25-1 others.

5.10 BLACKDOWN HILLS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,963: 2m 1f) (6)

1 3315 HIGH LOW 16 (D,F,S) I Jones 11-11-10 J Mogford (7)
2 6454 FALCON RIDGE 28 Miss E Lavelle 5-11-5 A P McCoy 52
3 -450 FIT TO BUST 63 N Babbage 6-11-5 R Wakley 45
4 P5-0 KNOCKARDO 43 (B) D Wade 8-11-4 R Bellamy 39
5 0510 FENCER'S QUEST 17 (B,S) J Tuck 6-11-4 H Oliver (5) 57
6 0P0 DANCING DERVISH 16 S Mellor 4-10-1 C Webb –

7-4 High Low, 11-4 Fencer's Quest, 3-1 Falcon Ridge, 9-2 Knockardo, 25-1 Fit To Bust, Dancing Dervish.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Forster, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; N Babbage, 4 from 19, 21.1%; M Pipe, 40 from 203, 19.7%; H Manners, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Murphy, 3 from 22, 13.6%; P Rodford, 3 from 22, 13.6%; G Edwards, 4 from 32, 12.5%; Mrs S Williams, 3 from 24, 12.5%; P Nicholls, 10 from 84, 11.9%; R Hodges, 17 from 146, 11.6%.

JOCKEYS: R Widger, 5 winners from 20 rides, 25.0%; J Magee, 3 from 16, 18.8%; A P McCoy, 25 from 135, 18.5%; C Maude, 13 from 79, 16.5%; G Supple, 8 from 49, 16.3%; G Tormey, 9 from 56, 16.1%. Only qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

TAUNTON: 2.40 Galloping Guns. 4.40 Cawarra Boy. 5.10 Fencer's Quest.

THUNDERER

2.20 Sharp Hint. 2.50 Catullus. 3.20 Melody Queen. 3.50 Levelled. 4.20 Speedy Classic. 4.50 Hormuz.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 CAMDEN ROAD MAIDEN STAKES (£3,007: 5f) (5 runners)

1 230- EMMAJOUN 178 W G M Turner 4-9-5 T Sprake 4
2 0356 SCURRILOUS 10 J L Harris 4-9-5 Dean McKeown 2
3 -030 SHARP HINT 9 D Nicholls 4-9-5 A Nicholls (5) 1
4 40- DON'T ASK 135 D Murray Smith 3-8-11 J Quinn 3
5 6306 MISPRINT 9 (B) E Wheeler 3-8-6 S Carson (7) 5

2-1 Sharp Hint, 3-1 Emmajoun, 7-2 Misprint, 4-1 Don't Ask, 6-1 Scurrilous.

2.50 WAVELL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,508: 1m 5f) (5)

1 000- OMAR'S ODYSSEY 190 P Mitchell 4-9-12 R Cochrane 3
2 3309 SANTARENE 28 P Howling 4-9-7 J Quinn 2
3 5056 TAZKIYA 7 (V) R Ingram 4-9-7 A Clark 1
4 600- CATULLUS 199 M Bell 3-8-5 M Fenton 5
5 40-4 JANE ANN 13 A Jarvis 3-8-0 Martin Dwyer 4

10-11 Catullus, 9-4 Jane Ann, 7-1 Tazkiya, 8-1 Santarene, 20-1 Omar's Odyssey

3.20 DAY OUT AT THE WINTER DERBY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,946: 1m) (5)

1 3421 MELODY QUEEN 5 (CD,F,G) K Burke 9-13 (6ex) N Callan (5) 2
2 651 KENTUCKY BULLET 20 M Johnston 9-2 R FitzPatrick (5) 3
3 6-23 INDIAN SWINGER 14 J Eustace 9-2 J Tate 5
4 0314 ANNIE APPLE 10 (CD,F) D Nicholls 8-6 A Nicholls (5) 1
5 -442 SHADY DEAL 14 M Usher 8-3 Nicola Wright (7) 4

11-4 Indian Swinger, 3-1 Kentucky Bullet, 7-2 Melody Queen, Shady Deal, 11-2 Annie Apple.

3.50 ARENA LEISURE PLC HANDICAP (£6,127: 6f) (6)

1 205- LEVELLED 121 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Channon 5-10-0 Candy Morris 6
2 0-13 SOAKED 51 (BF,CD,F,G) D Chapman 6-9-10 J Fanning 1
3 2211 MUKARRAB 5 (CD,G) D Chapman 5-9-6 (6ex) A Culhane 4
4 080- MAGIC RAINBOW 145 (D,F,S) M Bell 4-9-5 M Fenton 3
5 1113 KRYSTAL MAX 5 (CD,F) T Mills 6-9-2 L Carter 5
6 140- MIDHISH TWO 167 (D,S) P Mitchell 3-8-6 G Carter 2

5-2 Mukarrab, 3-1 Soaked, 9-2 Levelled, Krystal Max, 7-1 Midhish Two, 8-1 Magic Rainbow.

4.20 FAUCETS SPEEDY CLASSIC CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,571: 7f) (4)

1 -242 SPEEDY CLASSIC 28 (CD,F) M Heaton-Ellis 10-9-9 A Clark 2
2 00-1 STORM CAT 31 (V,D) K McAuliffe 4-9-9 A Culhane 1
3 60-5 KINNINO 14 G L Moore 5-9-7 Candy Morris 3
4 6-02 MISTER TRICKY 2 (CD) P Mitchell 4-9-7 R Cochrane 4

10-11 Storm Cat, 7-4 Speedy Classic, 6-1 Mister Tricky, 14-1 Kinnino.

4.50 BLACKBERRY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,556: 1m 2f) (4)

1 5-12 HORMUZ 26 (CD) M Johnston 9-7 R FitzPatrick (5) 3
2 05-1 KIND SIR 21 (CD) B Hills 9-4 A Eddery (5) 2
3 123- OO EE BE 75 (C) A T Murphy 9-3 Dean McKeown 4
4 0-41 PACIFIC ALLIANCE 16 (C) R Armstrong 8-10 G Carter 1

5-4 Kind Sir, 11-4 Hormuz, 3-1 Pacific Alliance, 13-2 Oo Ee Be.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholls, 13 winners from 65 runners, 20.0%; B Hills, 15 from 76, 19.7%; R Armstrong, 15 from 77, 19.5%; D Chapman, 24 from 125, 19.2%; M Bell, 17 from 98, 17.3%; M Johnston, 48 from 284, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: D McKeown, 29 winners from 166 rides, 17.5%; A Culhane, 20 from 123, 16.3%; R Cochrane, 57 from 356, 16.0%; J Fanning, 9 from 64, 14.1%; A Eddery, 4 from 29, 13.8%; G Carter, 29 from 218, 13.3%.

□ Candy Morris has her last rides in public at Lingfield this afternoon. Morris said: "I've had a good run but I just feel my chances might be rather limited this season."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chepstow

Going: heavy

2.20 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, In The Blood (C Maude, 8-11 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Irbee (5-2); 3, The Eens (5-1). 5 ran. ½l, 17l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.50; £1.40, £1.20. DF: £2.60. CSF: £2.73.

2.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Pridewood Fuggle (R Johnson, 13-2); 2, Golden Film (16-1); 3, Head Gardener (14-1); 4, Bow Bells (8-1). Breteche 11-4 fav. 16 ran. 5l, 8l. R Price. Tote: £9.80; £2.40, £3.10, £2.40, £2.30. DF: £113.30. CSF: £96.08. Tricast: £1,321.89.

3.20 (3m ch) 1, Bally Lira (S Burrough, 14-1); 2, See Enough (3-1); 3, Spring Double (15-8 fav). 9 ran. NR: Glacial King. Hd, 25l. P Rodford. Tote: £11.80; £1.30, £1.20, £1.20. DF: £18.50. CSF: £51.31.

3.50 (3m hdle) 1, Kates Charm (A Thornton, 13-8; Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Kingsmark (6-5 fav); 3, Gentle Rivage (11-1). 5 ran. 5l, 7l. R Alner. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.30. DF: £1.60. CSF: £3.84.

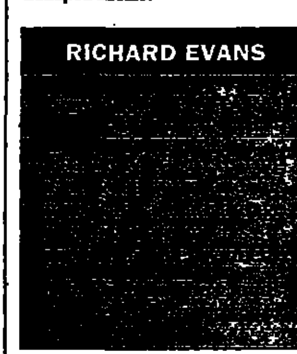
4.20 (3m ch) 1, Sparkling Cone (N Williamson, 4-1); 2, Majors Legacy (3-1 fav); 3, Orswell Lad (7-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 15l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £3.70; £2.10, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £9.20. CSF: £15.70. Tricast: £73.96.

4.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Executive Decision (J Tizzard, 10-1); 2, The French Furze (100-1); 3, Picket Piece (10-11 fav). 6 ran. 4l, 3l. P Nicholls. Tote: £7.30; £2.70, £7.40. DF: £46.90. CSF: £212.36.

Placepot: £245.50.

Quadpot: £35.20.

RICHARD EVANS



Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 100yd) 1, Prairie Wolf (M Fenton, 6-1); 2, Rouge (15-8 fav); 3, Gevity (7-1). 12 ran. NR: Danka. 2½l, 7l. M Bell. Tote: £12.70; £4.10, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £23.50. CSF: £16.81.

2.40 (7f) 1, Ron's Pet (P Fitzsimons, 7-1); 2, Dryad (10-1); 3, Elite Hope (6-4 fav). 8 ran. ¾l, 2½l. R Hannon. Tote: £9.00; £2.70, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £72.00. CSF: £71.72.

3.10 (7f) 1, Flying Officer (T Sprake, evens fav); 2, Westmen's Weigh (11-2); 3, Italian Symphony (20-1). 6 ran. 5l, 2½l. Sir Mark Prescott. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £3.70. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.39

3.40 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, West-A-Minute (A Culhane, 13-2); 2, Thekryaati (13-8 fav); 3, Susitach (14-1). 7 ran. Sh hd, 4l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £10.10; £3.00, £1.90. DF: £11.60. CSF: £16.96

4.10 (5f) 1, Sounds Lucky (C Carver, 13-2); 2, Legal Venture (5-1); 3, Westrann (6-1). Dolly Day Dream (5th) 100-30 fav. 12 ran. NR: Another Lover. 5l, 1¼l. N Littmoden. Tote: £7.30; £1.70, £2.50, £2.10. DF: £11.90. CSF: £39.95. Tricast: £201.64.

4.45 (7f) 1, Abtaal (P McCabe, 7-1); 2, C-Harry (7-4); 3, Amington Girl (25-1). Trojan Hero (4th) evens fav. 8 ran. Nk, 1¾l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £10.40; £3.00, £1.30, £7.70. DF: £14.70. CSF: £20.50.

5.15 (1m 4f) 1, Law Dancer (Lisa Hackett, 3-1); 2, Jalb (7-2); 3, Noukari (8-1). Colonel Custer (5th) 5-4 fav. 9 ran. 5l, 3½l. T Mills. Tote: £4.40; £3.20, £1.30, £2.60. DF: £13.60. Tote Trifecta: £235.30. CSF: £17.25. Tricast: £83.72.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £51,777.63 carried forward to Ludlow today).

Placepot: £31.70. Quadpot: £16.10.

□ Wetherby yesterday was abandoned due to waterlogging. There are no reported problems at today's three meetings.



LTA turns to France for fresh impetus


Hagelauer takes a seat on Wimbledon's Centre Court where he hopes to inspire young Britons to perform

Alix Ramsay says the man charged with improving British tennis has little talent with which to work

There are two ways of looking at this: Patrice Hagelauer has either grasped the poisoned chalice with both hands or he has accepted the easiest job in tennis. As of yesterday, he is the performance director of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), responsible for all national training, both men and women, senior and junior.

Take Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski out of the reckoning — and they have long since left the LTA behind — there remains a large group of distinctly average players who have got about as far on the rankings ladder as they are likely to.

If they do not perform, the performance director does not have much to do and if Hagelauer, a 51-year-old Frenchman, is looking to find and develop players who can reach the standard of Henman and Rusedski, he has his work cut out.

The effect of the two top men on British tennis has been startling. Public interest grows with every title Henman and Rusedski win and every final they reach. More youngsters are keen to take up the game and, rather than enthusiasm being confined to the two weeks of Wimbledon, it now last throughout the year, with results in tournaments from Tashkent to Basle being followed closely.

The latest world rankings show Henman at No 7 and Rusedski three places behind him. Next on the list is Chris Wilkinson, at No 186. Wilkinson is a decent chap who has had his moments at Wimbledon — he has reached the third round four times — but he is 29, married with a baby and he knows his limitations. A couple of years ago he did not even bother to try to qualify for the US Open, preferring to play a Challenger event on home soil. He saved money by refusing to make a trip that probably would have been futile.

Further down the list, much further, we find Martin Lee, 21, once the top junior in the world, but now struggling with a ranking of No 351. Arvind Parmer, who will be 21 later this month, lingers at No 456.

Among the women, the picture is just as bleak. Sam Smith, 27 is ranked No 60 and she is followed by Julie Pullin (144), Louise Latimer (158) and Karen Cross (167). It makes depressing reading.

Names who may be worth watching in the future are few and far between. Lee Childs, a big lad with a powerful service, as yet has no senior world ranking but has dipped his toe in the water and has won a 16-and-under international title in France.

Among the girls, Hannah Collin, from Surrey, is still the best bet. Now 17 and in her first full year on the circuit, she reached the quarter-finals at junior Wimbledon last year and at the Australian Open junior two months ago. Then again, at the same age, Martina Hingis had already won three grand slam titles and become world No 1.

There can be no doubt that Hagelauer knows his stuff. He has spent most of his working life involved with the French tennis federation and is leaving an important post in France, as National Sports Director in charge of the elite level of men's tennis.

Starting out as national coach, he progressed to director of men's tennis and was the personal coach to Guy Forget, Henri Leconte and Yannick Noah. He was coach to the Davis Cup team for 16 years and it is worth recalling that, in the 1990s, France has won the cup twice.

"There are a lot of possibilities because I have seen many British youngsters competing well in Europe," Hagelauer said. "I believe I can add my experience to help bring the best out of them." He will lead the LTA national training team which includes Jeremy Bates, as men's tennis director, Mark Cox, who is the director of the LTA/Rover junior tennis initiative and Keith Wooldridge, the women's tennis manager.

How Hagelauer copes with the structure of the LTA and the machinations within its various departments and committees remains to be seen. He has certainly taken on a daunting challenge for there is so far precious little to show for all the Wimbledon profits that have been poured back into the game in this country.

RUGBY UNION

France look for progress from unchanged team

By David Hands, rugby correspondent, and Alasdair Reid

FRANCE will go into their second weekend of the Five Nations Championship with an unchanged team, but wary of their relapse a year ago. Exultant after wins over England and Scotland, they nearly came unstuck against Ireland in Paris and they do not intend to suffer a similar struggle against Wales at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Their only concern is Olivier Magne, the flanker, who injured a foot playing for Brive last week. If he is forced to withdraw, Marc Raynaud, the uncapped Narbonne captain, will play, but the France management is optimistic that Magne will be ready to win his twentieth cap. It has already been reassured that Franck Comba, the centre injured at the weekend playing for Stade Français, will be fit to start.

Amendments to the replacements restore David Aucagne and introduce David Auradou, the Stade Français lock, to the championship in which France began the defence of their title with a wobbly 10-9 win over Ireland. "We are expecting something different to Dublin this time," Jo Maso, the manager, said. "Conditions were very difficult there. Now I hope we can play to our potential.

"We decided it would not have been right to take one or two of the players away from the group which battled so hard against Ireland. This season especially we want to prove that our game is different, that we can offer a show and lift our performance, because we are the reigning champions of Europe."

John Davies, who moved from Richmond to Llanelli earlier this year, returns to the Wales squad after the withdrawal of Chris Anthony from the replacements. Anthony, the Swansea prop, has a sceptic hand and, in the absence of the injured David Young, Davies offers experienced back-up.

Gary Armstrong, the Newcastle Falcons scrum half, who has captained Scotland in their two Five Nations matches, has been ruled out of the international fixture against Italy at Murrayfield on Saturday after suffering an arm injury during squad training on Tuesday.

Armstrong's place will be taken by Iain Fairley, the uncapped Edinburgh Reivers and Kelso scrum half, with the captaincy taken by Eric Peters, the Bath No 8, who will lead his country for the first time.

Armstrong was examined by Scottish Rugby Union doctors yesterday morning, who diagnosed soft tissue damage to his left arm. "It's what you might classify as a sprained elbow," Arthur Hastie, the Scotland manager — who announced an otherwise unchanged team — said. "It's not as serious as we first thought and there's every hope that Gary will be up and running in time for the next match, against Ireland."

Fairley, 25, sat on the replacements' bench during Scotland's matches against Wales and England. He has represented Scotland at scrum half at under-18, under-21 and A levels. Versatile enough to have been used by Kelso as a centre as well as at half back, he was first brought into the international squad for the tour to Australia last summer, when he was twice brought on as a replacement against provincial opposition.

"Iain is very similar to Gary in his style of play," Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, said. "He has a very quick break, a high work-rate, he's a good tackler and he kicks well."

TEAMS

FRANCE (v Wales, Saturday): E Ntamack (Toulouse); P Bernat-Salles (Biarritz), R Dourthe (Stade Français), F Comba (Stade Français), T Lombard (Stade Français); T Castaignède (Castres), P Carbonneau (Brive), C Califano (Toulouse), R Ibanez (Perpignan, captain), F Tournaire (Toulouse), O Brouzet (Begles-Bordeaux), F Pelous (Toulouse), P Benetton (Agen), O Magne (Brive), T Lievremont (Perpignan).
Replacements: D Laussucq (Stade Français), D Aucagne (Pau), X Garbajosa (Toulouse), M Raynaud (Narbonne), D Auradou (Stade Français), S Marconnet (Stade Français), M Dal Maso (Colomiers)

SCOTLAND (v Italy, Saturday): G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians); C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), J A Leslie (Sanix), K M Logan (Wasps), G P J Townsend (Brive), I T Fairley (Edinburgh Reivers); T J Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), A P Burnell (London Scottish), A Murray (Bedford), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), M D Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), E W Peters (Bath).
Replacements: S L Longstaff (Glasgow Caledonians), C M Chalmers (Edinburgh Reivers), G G Burns (Edinburgh Reivers), A C Pountney (Northampton), A I Reed (Wasps), D I W Hilton (Bath), S J Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers).

JAMIE McDONALD / ALLSPORT



Peters, left, who will captain Scotland for the first time against Italy, and Fairley had plenty to smile about yesterday

Hollow victory for Barbarians

East Midlands 19
Barbarians 51

By Mark Baldwin

NINE Barbarians tries decorated their 76th meeting with the East Midlands in a fixture which, year by year, offers ever more nostalgia but correspondingly less relevance to the modern game.

Once an unofficial England trial, the Mobbs Memorial match was watched by a small crowd at Northampton, and not even the presence of more than a hundred chattering schoolchildren could lift a muted atmosphere. The match is now used as a vehicle for junior rugby funding. Scottish Amicable, the sponsors of Barbarians, donated £300 for every Barbarians' try — meaning a total of £2,700 was raised.

Rob Wainwright, the former Scotland captain, led from the front in a Barbarians performance that also included eye-catching performances from Mike Friday, the speedy Wasps scrum-half, and Greg Kacala, the Cardiff No 8. Wainwright, in fact, began the scoring and Kacala's surge across halfway produced a gap for Friday to sprint clear for the second Barbarians try.

East Midlands, based on the young talent at the Northampton club, reacted spiritedly with tries from David Dantiacq and a penalty try awarded when the Barbarians failed to retreat ten yards for a tap penalty. However, the final score would have been even more conclusive had Luis Criscuolo, the Coventry fly-half, brought his kicking boots.

SCORERS: East Midlands: Tries: Dantiacq (15mins); Penalty try: (27), Jones (64); Conversions: Wilmer, 2. Barbarians: Tries: Wainwright (8), Friday (11), Curiere 2 (33, 42), Walsh (52), Thorneycroft 2 (57, 60), Cacala (74), Davies (76). Conversions: Criscuolo 3.
SCORING SEQUENCE: (East Midlands first): 0-5, 0-10, 7-10, 14-10, 14-15 (half-time), 14-22, 14-27, 14-34, 14-39, 19-39, 19-46, 19-51.
EAST MIDLANDS (Northampton unless stated): J Wilmer (rep: M Jones, 41mins); J Steele, M Tucker, D Dantiacq, K Slaney (Old Scouts); A Blyth (rep: R Haddow, 71), B Taylor (rep: J Howard, 61); R Blowers (rep: K Todd, 41), D Stapleton (Bedford Athletic, rep: J Michel, 66), T Marston, S Foale (rep: M Earle, 48), J Phillips, I Sidnsley (Bedford Athletic, rep: S Brady, 58), J Wright, P Alston.
BARBARIANS: S Moffatt (Loughborough University); L Scrase (Wasps), T Walsh (Henley), L Curiere (Watsonians and Romania), H Thorneycroft (Northampton, rep: P Davies, Henley, 61); L Criscuolo (Coventry and Argentina), M Friday (Wasps, rep: G Peacocke, Cambridge University, 75); M Foulds (Cambridge University), K McKenzie (Glasgow Caledonian and Scotland), S Kronk (Newport), K Whitley (Coventry and Canada), M McVie (Watsonians, rep: D Craddock, Manchester, 71), R Wainwright (Glasgow Caledonian and Scotland), P Williams (Cardiff, rep: T Burgon, Manchester, 41), G Cacala (Cardiff and Poland).
Referee: F Howard (Liverpool).

Falcons fail to pay up

WIGAN, the Super League champions, are threatening court action on Newcastle Falcons, their rugby union counterparts, after the latest payment in the Va'aiga Tuigamala transfer fee failed to arrive on time yesterday.

"We are being messed about," Peter Norbury, the Wigan chairman, said. Falcons still owe more than half the £750,000 fee for Va'aiga Tuigamala, who switched codes two years ago.

Kevin Yates, the Bath prop, who served a six-month suspension last year for biting another player's ear, appears before the Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel today charged with stamping on the head of Paul Volley, of Wasps, during a match last month.

Imperial repeat winning formula

Imperial Medics 21
GKT 12

By Michael Aylwin

MEDICAL students are notorious for playing as hard as they are obliged to work, but those that congregated at Old Deer Park yesterday were clearly intent on doing none of the latter. So play hard they did, both on and off the field.

It was a day for Imperial Medics to celebrate, for, as they did last year, they beat Guy's, King's and St Thomas' (GKT) in the final of the United Hospitals Challenge Cup, sponsored by the Medical Sickness Society, a tournament that remains the oldest in world rugby.

Trailing 16-0 at the break, a spirited comeback saw GKT threaten to snatch what would have been an unlikely victory. A smart counter-attack saw Eddie Behn score a try and then further pressure resulted in a penalty try for GKT. Yet it was not enough. Imperial's lead at half-time proved to be too great, an advantage established through an early try from James Platt, supplemented by three penalties and a conversion from Iain Macleod. A late, well-taken try from Alistair Morris, a replacement wing, ended the GKT rally.

SCORERS: Imperial: Tries: Platt (17min), Morris (78). Conversion: Macleod. Penalty goals: Macleod (3 (5,34,40). GKT: Tries: Behn (68) penalty try (76). Conversion: Davies.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Imperial first): 3-0, 10-0, 13-0, 16-0 (half-time), 16-5, 16-12, 21-12.
IMPERIAL: I Macleod; E Wilson (rep: A Morris, 72min), M Lanyman, O Kayes, J Platt, S Rolers, P Thurachelvan (rep: M Jackson, 50); B Carpenter, A Majed (rep: J Hughes, 77), J Stradling, B Spieglberg (rep: I Mahesharwan, 67), B O'Dunuga (rep: M Tremelling, 77), B Caesar, O Waters (rep: M Grant, 55), S Neequaye.
GKT: H Pynn (rep: E Behn, 40); R Etok, T Valzeboer, A Bunting (rep: N Gibbins, 40), U Ekeowa; N Davies, P Morgan; D Baladassen (rep: R Clinton, 34), M Edmondson, J Stacey, B Schofield, B Thorpe, C Jacks, P Davis, B Wood.
Referee: R Maybank (London).

Twose and Astle defy South Africa

ROGER TWOSE and Nathan Astle helped New Zealand to a draw on the final day of the first Test against South Africa at Eden Park yesterday. Both men scored stubborn half-centuries as the home side, needing 269 to make South Africa bat again, finished their second innings on 244 for three wickets.

New Zealand resumed on the final morning at 4-0. With Twose, who made 65, batting for four hours and Astle, who finished undefeated on 69, spending three hours at the crease, the home side averted defeat easily.

"A wicket like this doesn't do the game any favours, does it?" Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, said. "Cricket is competing for crowds. We need to entertain." The second Test begins in Christchurch on March 11.

Harmison returns for final challenge

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Cape Town

FROM the start of their winter tour, the England A team had intended to use their last match as a grand finale for the players involved. Form and circumstance have dictated that the side for that five-day game, which starts today at Newlands, picks itself, but the President's XI should still provide the stiffest opposition encountered in either South Africa and Zimbabwe.

For that reason, it was decided to rest Steve Harmison for the four-day game against Gauteng, preferring instead that he remain fit and sharp for this concluding match.

With Melvyn Betts unfit and both Paul Hutchison and Jason Lewry having returned to England, there has been a noted reliance on Darren Thomas and Paul Franks. For all that, and despite the apparent comfort of their ten-wicket win over Gauteng, the England A pace bowling at the Wanderers lacked an edge that only Harmison can offer. Franks makes way for him.

With the two first-class victories here brought about with telling contributions from the spinners, both Graeme Swann and Dean Cosker will play.

The President's XI side includes the best of the players not with South Africa in New Zealand and those not involved in the final of the domestic first-class competition between Border and Western Province.

ENGLAND A: M P Vaughan (captain), D L Maddy, M B Loye, M G N Windows, A Flintoff, V S Solanki, G P Swann, C M W Read, D A Cosker, S J Harmison, S D Thomas.

Depleted Sri Lanka face difficult task

SRI LANKA, missing six key players through injuries, face a tough task against Pakistan today in their last chance to qualify for the Asian Test cricket championship final.

Pakistan, with 17 points, have already qualified after beating India by 46 runs in Calcutta. Sri Lanka have four points against India's ten after the two teams drew in Colombo last week.

"We are definitely underdogs for the game," said Hashan Tillekeratne, who will make his debut as Sri Lanka captain.

The six out with injuries are Arjuna Ranatunga, Aravinda De Silva, Chaminda Vaas, Sanath Jayasuriya, Muttiah Muralitharan and Nuwan Zoysa.

Pakistan will be without Shoaib Akhtar, the pace bowler, who has a strained neck.

Under-19s suffer familiar failures

From John Stern in Auckland

ENGLAND Under-19 return home today after a tour of missed opportunities in New Zealand. The four-day series was drawn and the one-day rubber lost, though England took the first game in both cases.

"The difference between the two sides was that, after the first Test, when New Zealand got an opportunity, they didn't let it slip," Mike Gatting, the England selector who was managing his first under-19 tour, said.

Gatting cites a loss in concentration by the players and believes they tended to adopt too casual an approach after working themselves into positions of strength. "We had chances to make the kill in both the one-day series and the Tests," Gatting said.

"The things that happened on this tour mirror what goes on with the senior side as well. They can win a one-day game brilliantly and then throw one away."

There have been positive signs over the past seven weeks, however. Ian Bell, the right-hand batsman from Warwickshire, is still at school, but his maturity at the crease was exceptional. Dayle Hadlee, the New Zealand Under-19 coach, describes him as "the best 16-year-old I've ever seen".

Bell's innings of 91 in the first four-day international, when he never looked like being dismissed, and his hundred in the third four-day game were both attractive, fluent innings.

Michael Gough, the captain, achieved what he set out to do as a batsman, scoring a century and a fifty, but his captaincy was less impressive. Gatting described it as "a little inflexible" and that he "let it drift at times". However, as with every other aspect of an under-19 tour, he stresses that "it is important for things to be left in their own hands because that is the only way they will learn".

The two spinners, particularly Graeme Bridge, the Durham slow left-armer, also had good tours, Bridge finishing as England's leading wicket-taker in the four-day series. Richard Dawson, the Yorkshire off-spinner, made useful runs, batting doggedly in difficult situations.

MOTOR RACING

Dennis adds fuel to rival claims

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

FOR rivals who thought they would at least be within touching distance of the Formula One world champions this season, there was a word of warning yesterday. Ron Dennis, McLaren's team principal, was confronted with pre-season test statistics for the first race of the season that seemed to show his team had lost the vast superiority it enjoyed last year when his Silver Arrows shot into the distance, not just taking the first two places, but lapping the entire field.

Dennis, however, exuded quiet confidence as he disclosed that his McLarens will have plenty left in their tank, literally, for the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday. Though he did not directly accuse his rivals of showboating through the long test sessions, he did indicate that a single spectacular lap time did not necessarily a champion make.

While other teams were flying with near-empty fuel tanks to post lap times that would grab headlines and please sponsors, McLaren-Mercedes were plodding through the reliability and efficiency tests that were hallmarks of their world championship triumph last season. Engineers persisted in running cars with at least half-full fuel tanks to simulate the race that faces them this weekend and put no effort into trying to beat the competition at test sessions that win no points towards the championship.

Discipline was the word Dennis used to describe his team's efforts, warning that the psychological warfare of other teams, notably Ferrari, were not for him. "A grand prix car only runs with low fuel three times in a race weekend, once in qualifying, once before the fuel stop and at the end of the race," he said.

"We have concentrated on getting everything right for the conditions we will face. What other teams do is up to them, but we can accurately predict from our computer simulations that we were capable of going much faster. So we are confident about the race and what we are up against this season to try to win the world championship again."

In fact, if the McLarens are as devastatingly quick as last year, Australians will be pinching themselves, such will be the sense of déjà vu. Whether that will extend to the twin McLarens of David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen swapping places, as they did last year on team orders, remains to be seen. Dennis is certainly not worried about warnings here that the crowd will not be pleased to see a similar stage-managed finish, manufactured by Coulthard moving over to allow Hakkinen his first victory of the year, on the way to the championship; nor will rules banning team orders have any bearing.

'Sometimes, the team takes precedence over drivers'

Despite Hakkinen being world champion, the drivers will get equal treatment and equal cars and it will be up to them to race unless the demands of the team prevail, as they did last year here. Dennis said: "If we found ourselves with a performance advantage, we would use that advantage to win the race. It is for the drivers to go out and race, but there are times when the team has to take precedence over the drivers.

"Those times are few and far between and last year was exceptional. There have been team orders as long as I can remember in motor racing and it has been like that since I took control of McLaren in the early Eighties, and it will always be so."

Dennis does not mind which driver gets the upper hand, so long as one of them does. "They are equal in the eyes of the team and they can both race. Now let's get on with the season and see what happens," he said.



Wardrop is looking beyond the ranks of Formula Ford racing to a place alongside the big names of the grand prix circuit

Wardrop pursues grand ambition

SARAH POTTER

Grand prix wheels are about to turn again and this Sunday, in Melbourne, a new season will give Formula One followers the chance to reacquaint themselves with all the usual suspects. Schumacher, Hakkinen, Hill, Coulthard and the rest will weave their plot lines en route to the climax in Japan next October, but while they race, would-be rivals wait and watch in the wings.

Lucy Wardrop may be the most unlikely Formula One aspirant, but she is among them nonetheless. Although few women reach the start line of what is the highest level in motor sport and none have made a significant, lasting impression, this Sussex teenager, the 1999 Silverstone winter series single-seater champion, is making her intentions clear.

Wardrop may be a slight figure, but she believes that she was born to be a racing driver and her sparky ambition is persuasive. "I don't want anything else," she said. "Everything I have goes into racing because it's my dream and I know I can achieve it."

The first evidence of that came at the end of last year when Wardrop took an intensive course at Silverstone. "Anyone can do that," she said. "You go along, pay your money and spend a week thrashing around in different cars. It gave me experience and confidence."

She also won a first-day bet with a senior instructor that, before the week was out, she could manoeuvre her Formula Ford car close to the lap record. "I was so desperate to go round the Grand Prix circuit," she said. "He didn't think I could get near the time, so said he'd take me if I did and by the fourth day I was well within the target. That made them stop and think: 'Hey, there's someone here who's good.'" Since then, Wardrop has undertaken weekly personal tuition at the Northamptonshire circuit with Chris Ward.

"I've been able to speak to the guys who were in racing and find out what I've got to do," she said. "They've been brilliant and all through the winter I've done loads of testing and learnt to consistently drive on the edge."

It came as no shock when Wardrop became the first female to win at Silverstone. She took pole position in each of the three winter series championship races, won two of them and clocked the fastest lap time in all three. Last Saturday, in pre-race testing, the 19-year-old broke the lap record for the Silverstone Stowe circuit, which had stood at 41.72sec.

The 1600cc Formula Ford cars that she drives may be some way off the power and polish of the Formula One machines, but Wardrop is unswerving about her suitability to take the wheel. Nevertheless, some observers remain sceptical that women can be strong enough to make the step up in power and class, David Coulthard among them. The Scot has suggested that drivers from the distaff side were unlikely to be mentally tough enough, a view with which Wardrop, not surprisingly, disagrees strongly. "If that's his view, I'm just going to have to prove him wrong," she said.

The road so far has not been without its bumps. Wardrop ignored parental pressure by choosing not to go to university and raised the £2,500 for her week's course at Silverstone by working as a waitress and child-minding. "I worked hard to get that money and I wanted to prove to my parents that I really could do this," she said. "Initially, they told me racing is an expensive game and if I wanted it, I'd have to do it myself."

Now, though, her commitment and talent proven, there has been a change of heart. "They've just said that they'll fund me for this season in the 1800cc Formula Ford championship," she said. "We've got a budget of £20,000 and we're trying to attract outside sponsors so that I can do testing at other circuits too."

Racing begins in March and concludes in November, with Wardrop's father, Murray, offering day-to-day support. "Dad bought me a motorbike when I was 7 and taught me to drive at 9," she said. "I have always loved speed and he let me enter go-karting competitions when I was 12, so I don't think he's surprised that the bug has bitten."

Naturally, she will be watching her television to see the Formula One season begin in Australia. As always, she expects her eye to be drawn to Michael Schumacher.

Why? "Because he's the best driver, of course."

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan suffers surprise defeat

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

WITH the notable exception of Ronnie O'Sullivan, who was surprisingly beaten 5-4 by Darren Morgan, it was a day of escapology for a number of the game's luminaries in the first round of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel here.

O'Sullivan recovered from 4-1 in arrears to force a deciding frame, but Morgan managed to retain sufficient composure to pot a difficult blue down the side cushion for victory. He will meet Nigel Bond in the last 16.

Such a high-profile victory was a belated reward for Morgan, who negotiated the final qualifying round of the event in Plymouth last summer while still employing crutches after fracturing his hip in a car accident on the M4 only two months earlier.

"This makes all the pain I went through down there well worthwhile," Morgan, whose overall form has improved markedly since he began receiving coaching from Terry Griffiths, his fellow Welshman and the former world champion, said.

Stephen Hendry, John Parrott and Alan McManus all scraped into the second round. Hendry edged Paul Davies, who missed a straightforward blue in the decider, 5-4 while McManus rallied from 4-2 down to beat Matthew Stevens by the same scoreline.

However, Parrott was responsible for the greatest escape when he defeated Dave Harold, winner of the tournament in 1993, 5-4 after requiring three snookers with three reds remaining in the closing frame. Parrott, who had led 4-1, obtained two snookers, the second of which yielded a free ball. He cleared to blue and, on his next scoring visit, deposited pink and black. "I feel sorry for Dave. He deserved to win," Parrott said.

John Higgins expended far less nervous energy on the way to beating Ian McCulloch 5-2. Higgins, the world No 1, compiled breaks of 77, 75, 83 and 61 during an encouraging performance.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The last article in this mini-series on Paul Soloway is a fine example of partnership co-operation. A good player is always on the look-out for opportunities to save his partner from error – even when he is playing with Bob Hamman, the world number one. Today's deal comes from the US Trials.

Dealer East　　E-W game　　Teams

North: ♠ 9 8　♡ 2　♢ A K Q J 8 4　♣ J 10 8 4

West: ♠ A　♡ Q 10 8 6 3　♢ 10 9 7 3　♣ A Q 9

East: ♠ 6 4 2　♡ K J 9 7 5 4　♢ 5 2　♣ K 2

South: ♠ K Q J 10 7 5 3　♡ A　♢ 6　♣ 7 6 5 3

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: six of hearts.

Where Soloway and Hamman were sitting East-West, Lew Stansby opened Four Spades with the South cards, and played there.

On a heart lead, declarer won in hand and naturally enough hastened to cash out the diamonds to discard clubs. Soloway, East, ruffed the third diamond, and was overruffed. Now declarer led a low trump from his hand. Hamman could not withhold his ace of spades even if he had wanted to, and now had to find the killing defence.

Hamman saw the necessity of shifting to a club, but made the inferior play of the ace of clubs rather than a low club. Not to worry, Soloway could also see that three club tricks were needed to beat the contract and that if he played low on the ace he would have to win the second round with the king. He would not be able to stop declarer crossing to dummy with the nine of spades to cash all the diamonds. Accordingly, Soloway unblocked the king under Hamman's ace. It was now a simple matter for Hamman to cash the queen of clubs and give Soloway a club ruff to beat the contract.

The game was allowed to make at the other table in this match when in this position West played a passive diamond, and declarer was able to discard two clubs on dummy's diamonds.

In another match West was defending Five Spades, after East had pre-empted in hearts. Declarer did the best he could after a heart lead, when he led a low trump out of his hand at once. West took his ace of spades and, reasonably enough, cashed the ace of clubs. When his partner played the two he read it as discouraging and tried to give his partner a diamond ruff, so Five Spades made.



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov ahead

World champion Garry Kasparov has extended his lead in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain. In round eight he was the sole winner, whilst all his rivals were drawing. Nevertheless, as todays game between Topalov and Kramnik demonstrates, even the draws have been fiercely contested. Topalov attempted to breathe new life into the ancient Cochrane Gambit, but could not make real headway.

White: Peter Svidler
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999
Sicilian Defence

	White	Black
1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Qxd4	Nc6
5	Bb5	Bd7
6	Bxc6	Bxc6
7	Nc3	Nf6
8	Bg5	e6
9	0-0-0	Be7
10	Rhe1	0-0
11	Kb1	h6
12	Bh4	Re8
13	Bg3	d5
14	e5	Ne4
15	Nxe4	dxe4
16	Qxd8	Rexd8
17	Nd4	Be8
18	c3	Rac8
19	Kc2	b5
20	Rxe4	b4
21	Re3	a5
22	Ne2	Bc6
23	f3	Rxd1
24	Kxd1	Bc5
25	Rd3	Bb5
26	Rd2	Be3
27	Rd6	bxc3
28	Nxc3	Bf1
29	Bh4	g5
30	Be1	Bxg2
31	Ke2	Bf4
32	Bg3	Bc1
33	Na4	h5
34	Rd1	h4
35	Be1	Bf4
36	Bc3	Kg7
37	Nb6	Rh8
38	Kf2	h3
39	Bd2	Bxh2
40	Nd7	Kg6
41	Be3	g4
42	fxg4	Bc6

White resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Linares 1999
Petroff Defence

	White	Black
1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	Nxe5	d6
4	Nxf7	Kxf7
5	Nc3	c5
6	Bc4+	Be6
7	Bxe6+	Kxe6
8	d4	Kf7
9	dxc5	Nc6
10	Qe2	Qd7
11	Be3	dxc5
12	f4	Re8
13	e5	Ng4
14	Rd1	Qf5
15	0-0	h5
16	Bc1	Nd4
17	Qc4+	Kg6
18	h3	Nh6
19	Nb5	a6
20	Nxd4	cxd4
21	Qxd4	Rc8
22	Qb6+	Kh7
23	Qxb7	Rxc2
24	Be3	Qg6
25	Rc1	Rxc1
26	Rxc1	Nf5
27	Bf2	h4
28	Rc7	Ng3
29	Kh2	Nf1+
30	Kg1	Qb1
31	Bxh4	Bc5+

Draw agreed

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHEITEL
a. Blood money
b. A wig
c. A silver bar

UJAMAA
a. An edible gourd
b. Ritual dancing
c. A kind of socialism

SPUMONI
a. Ice cream
b. Surfing waves
c. Ribbon pasta

WUWEI
a. Laissez-faire
b. Martial arts
c. A pottery period

Answers on page 50

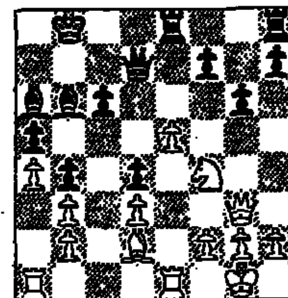
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Movsesian - Lalic, Elista 1998.

The juxtaposition of the white queen and the black king along the h2-b8 diagonal created the possibility for a quick tactical win for White. How did he continue?

Solution on page 50



Gascoigne, the uncontrollable genius

Brian Glanville, Britain's best-known football writer, is celebrating 50 years as a sports journalist with a new book, *Football Memories*. Here he looks at the uneasy relationship between Paul Gascoigne and successive England managers





Pick of the crop: Gascoigne distraught after being booked in the World Cup semi-final in 1990 and, right, during his comeback for Lazio in 1995 after breaking a leg

Paul Gascoigne was the new reality in the England team by the time of Italia 90. Two years earlier, when England had played ineptly in the European championship finals in West Germany, and Bobby Robson had seemed in a state of strange confusion, my colleagues had derided me when I said I thought Gascoigne should have been chosen.

By 1990 his claims were unanswerable, though Robson had given him a peculiarly hard time, banishing him to the left wing in B internationals, blaming him publicly and harshly for once giving the ball away and announcing before a friendly against the Czechs at Wembley before the World Cup that this was virtually Gascoigne's last chance. This put enormous pressure on Gascoigne, who seemed in a frenzy in the tunnel before the teams took the field, but who proceeded to play superbly.

Emerging from what might not unkindly be described as a "problem" family in the North East — it was said that he preferred to sleep in Newcastle United's boys' hostel rather than go home for the night — his talent was nevertheless phenomenal. No English player of his generation had the supreme skills, the glorious playmaking ability, the sheer originality, of Gascoigne, a born inside-forward in the classical sense.

That he was immature, occasionally violent, kept doubtful company and was intensely self-destructive was undeniable. One remembered what André Gide said, when asked who was the greatest French poet: "Victor Hugo, alas".

Bobby Robson called Gascoigne "daft as a brush" and that was giving him all the best of it. He came south to Spurs, and continued his remarkable career, until the second of two crazy challenges in the 1991 FA Cup Final at Wembley against Nottingham Forest put him out of the game for a year. Out he would later go again when, in a training match with Lazio, the Roman club he next joined, he suicidally tried to tackle a young reserve — as he was then — Nesta, as the boy shot; and he suffered a broken leg in consequence.

When Gazza decided to join Lazio, I observed, "Wrong city, wrong player, wrong club", and so it proved, though he didn't forgive me, greeting me when I visited Lazio's training ground with a mouthful of abuse. No rare event in his saga. But the Lazio fans adored him: his fellow players liked him; and though his spell in Rome ended in anticlimax, there was a period when he was the idol of the crowd.

His exceptional skills, his astonishing ability to "photograph" the field and react with the unexpected pass as soon as the ball came to him, were paramount in England reaching the semi-final of Italia 90 when, as we know, he broke down in tears after being booked, aware that he would miss the final, if England reached it. Their path to the semi-finals was an odd one. They began in Cagliari with a draw so dull that an Italian paper headed its report, NO FOOTBALL PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH.

Bobby Robson had long been adamant that he would never play with a sweeper defence, which he thought alien to English players, and he unquestionably had a point. Yet when England met Holland in Cagliari, a sweeper was what they employed, and they managed to draw. In the quarter-final against against Cameroon in Naples, Cameroon seemed likely to win till Robson gave up the sweeper formation and close-marked Roger Milla with little Paul Parker. England won, and next day on a hotel terrace outside Salerno, bathed in brilliant sunshine, Robson told a press conference, "A flat back four saved us".

Graham Taylor's appointment to the England managership in 1990 never made a shred of sense. He began clumsily, dropping Paul Gascoigne — how history repeats itself! — from the early game against Ireland in Dublin. The initial rationale was that Ireland's long-ball game would cut out the midfield. But then to replace Gazza with the still smaller Gordon Cowans made no sense at all. *Ex post facto*, Taylor hinted that Gascoigne's psychological condition made it unwise to play him, but that made scant sense, too.

There had been much controversy just before the 1998 World Cup tournament started when Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, once such a sublimely talented, creative player himself, sent Paul Gascoigne home from training the very day after praising his physical condition. Whether or not the decision was right — and Gascoigne had certainly been indulging himself excessively — to do it in such a way was purely Pavlovian.

Gascoigne, the eternal adolescent with the superb football brain, is a vulnerable creature at the best of times, and such alternating stimuli could have had the most dire results. Fortunately, he seemed to manage the disaster well. This was illusory.

On the field he may well have been a player of unusual intelligence, but, as we know, a football brain is *sui generis*. It does not preclude intellect outside the field of play, any more than an intellectual need necessarily be an unintelligent footballer. But the football brain is essentially a thing of instinct, the *reductio ad absurdum* being a player such as Paul Gascoigne, who is wonderfully inventive, aware and original on the field, but displays few of these qualities off the pitch.

■ *Extracted from* Football Memories *by Brian Glanville, published by Virgin Publishing (£16.99).*

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Two leading football figures have urged Graeme Le Saux and Robbie Fowler to resolve their differences and prevent the bad feeling between the two players becoming a long-term feud.

David Mellor, of the Government Task Force, who was at the Chelsea-Liverpool game in which Le Saux elbowed Fowler in the head after being taunted by the Liverpool striker, said: "They should publicly make up. The last time there was spat between two leading players — Ian Wright and Peter Schmeichel — it was allowed to drag on."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, claimed that Fowler had stepped over the bounds of taste in taunting Le Saux.

■ Ugo Ehigou, the Aston Villa central defender, is optimistic he will be able to return to action late next month after fracturing his eye socket in two places in an accidental clash with Alan Shearer, the England and Newcastle United forward.

Ehiogu will undergo a second operation tomorrow, but has been told he should be able to play again in six weeks' time providing there are no complications.

■ Mark Beeney, the Leeds United reserve goalkeeper, has been forced to retire following an Achilles injury. The 31-year-old snapped his Achilles in a reserve game earlier this season and although he underwent surgery the repaired injury became infected and snapped again.

Beeney, who joined Leeds from Brighton in 1993 and has made 35 first-team appearances, has been told it will not be strong enough for him to resume playing.

■ Jermaine Pennant, who caused a sensation when transferred from Notts County to Arsenal for £2 million, is included in the England Under-15 squad for the international against Ireland at Preston on March 12.

Tottenham's victory is lost on Ferdinand



Southampton fail to prevent Ginola, right, getting in a shot. Photograph: Dylan Martinez

By Russell Kempson

LES FERDINAND, the former England striker, knew little about Tottenham Hotspur's recent draws against Middlesbrough and Derby County. He was carried off with concussion during both matches and, consequently, was deemed unfit to play in Tottenham's match against Southampton at White Hart Lane on Tuesday night.

Tottenham won 3-0, ending a run of six successive draws in the FA Carling Premiership, with Steffen Iversen and Chris Armstrong, Ferdinand's rivals in attack, scoring a goal each. Ferdinand is again likely to take a back seat — this time on the substitutes' bench — for the FA Cup quarter-final against Barnsley at Oakwell on Saturday.

"I bet Les has got an even bigger headache after seeing those two score," George Graham, the Tottenham manager, said, rather unsympathetically. "I was really pleased for both Chris and Steffen and I thought they did well. They could have had a lot more goals but for some good goalkeeping. I will have to think hard whether Les will get his place back for Saturday."

Armstrong scored in the nineteenth minute with a low cross-shot from David Ginola's quickly-taken and precise free kick. Iversen added a second with a looping header from Ginola's cross in the second half and José Dominguez, a substitute, made it 3-0 in the final minute.

Tottenham, the Worthington Cup finalists, thus stretched their unbeaten run to 16 matches and Ferdinand, who was prevented from playing on the advice of a specialist, will find it difficult to regain his place. "We were going for goals and I think the fans appreciated it," Graham said. "Although we've drawn a lot of games recently, we've been entertaining at home and our attacking play has pleased me more than anything else.

"People forget I've been here only five months and although we should have won more games and perhaps be six points better off, we are making steady progress. We mustn't be greedy. We're at Wembley in one competition and in a quarter-final of another."

For Southampton, who lie next to bottom in the Premiership, the defeat heaped further doubts on their ability to avoid relegation. They showed little of the resilience shown in the 2-1 loss against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday. "I'm annoyed because my players seem to go from one extreme to another," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said.

"Sometimes, I don't know what I'm going to get from them. Some of our defending against Spurs was schoolboy stuff and you can't get away with that at any level, never mind in the Premiership. We practise things all week but then don't go out and do them in the matches."

In the Nationwide League first division, Ipswich Town moved into second place behind Sunderland with a 3-2 win against Watford at Portman Road. However, the victory was marred by an injury to Kieron Dyer, the England Under-21 midfield player.

Dyer had given Ipswich a seventeenth-minute lead but fell to the ground seven minutes later, still feeling the effects of an earlier challenge from Micah Hyde. He was taken from the pitch and it was later diagnosed that he had cracked the fibula in his left leg. He is likely to be on the sidelines for six weeks.

Bolton Wanderers slipped to their second successive defeat when losing 3-2 against Huddersfield Town at the McAlpine Stadium. "People will say our bubble has burst but I don't believe that," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said. "I've every confidence in my players to pick themselves up."

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	28	16	9	3	63	29	57
Chelsea	27	14	11	2	41	22	53
Arsenal	27	13	11	3	35	13	50
Leeds	27	12	9	6	41	26	45
Aston Villa	27	12	8	7	39	31	44
West Ham	27	11	7	9	31	38	40
Liverpool	27	11	6	10	50	34	39
Derby	27	9	11	7	26	25	38
Wimbledon	26	9	10	7	30	38	37
Tottenham	27	8	12	7	33	32	36
Sheff Wed	26	10	5	11	34	25	35
Newcastle	27	9	8	10	35	36	35
Middlesbro	27	7	12	8	34	39	33
Leicester	26	7	9	10	26	36	30
Everton	27	6	10	11	20	29	28
Charlton	27	6	9	12	31	37	27
Coventry	27	7	6	14	28	38	27
Blackburn	27	6	8	13	27	38	26
Southampton	27	6	5	16	26	53	23
Nottm Forest	27	3	8	16	22	54	17

Pressman demands Hillsborough move

By Our Sports Staff

KEVIN PRESSMAN, the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, wants to leave Hillsborough after being dropped by Danny Wilson, the manager, for the game against Wimbledon last night.

Pressman, who is annoyed that he has not retained his place after playing for the past three matches when Pavel Srnicek was suspended, is to speak to Wilson over the next few days in an effort to resolve his future.

However, Pressman, 31, a former England Under-21 and B international, who has made 270 league and cup appearances for Wednesday, appears to have played his last game for the club. Pressman feels Wilson has let him down after he helped Wednesday to win the FA Carling Premiership games against Blackburn Rovers and Middlesbrough, with the only defeat coming in the FA Cup fifth round to Chelsea.

Pressman said: "I want to go. I have done nothing wrong because we have had two good results in the three games in which I have played. I hope he [Wilson] will do the decent thing and let me leave. I don't want to be back on the bench."

Wilson is determined to hang on to Pressman, although, with feelings running high and with Leicester City believed to be interested, the goalkeeper could be on his way before the transfer deadline at the end of the month. Wilson said: "We have three quality keepers and it is very difficult to keep them all happy.

"Kevin Pressman has a big future here as far as I am concerned. I am obviously disappointed, but when he thinks about it rationally he might think he has reacted a bit too quickly."

Dean Windass, the Oxford United striker, is today expected to join Bradford City in a deal worth more than £1 million. Bradford, the Nationwide League first division club, originally had a £1 million offer turned down by Oxford. However, they have returned with a new bid and it is believed that Gordon Watson, the Bradford forward, could also be offered to Oxford as part of the deal.

Liverpool have taken Martin Amerhauser on a week's trial. Amerhauser, 24, is a former Austria Under-21 international and has just helped his present club, FC Salzburg, to the Austrian domestic championship.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

UEFA CUP: *Quarter-finals, first legs:* Atlético Madrid 2 AS Roma 1; Bologna 3 Lyons 0; Bordeaux 2 Parma 1; Marseilles 2 Celta Vigo 1.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham 3 Southampton 0.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham 0 Norwich 0; Huddersfield 3 Bolton 2; Ipswich 3 Watford 2; Sheff Utd 1 Crystal Palace 1; Sunderland 2 Portsmouth 0; West Brom 3 Stockport 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	34	21	10	3	67	22	73
Ipswich	34	19	7	8	47	22	64
Bradford	33	18	7	8	58	34	61
Bolton	33	16	11	6	59	40	59
Birmingham	34	16	10	8	49	29	58
Watford	35	14	11	10	51	47	53
West Brom	35	14	8	13	59	54	50
Huddersfield	34	13	10	11	48	54	49
Wolvrhmptn	33	13	10	10	46	35	49
Grimsby	32	14	7	11	34	34	49
Norwich	33	12	12	9	46	42	48
Sheff Utd	33	12	11	10	51	51	47
Tranmere	33	9	15	9	45	44	42
C Palace	34	10	11	13	45	55	41
Stockport	34	9	13	12	40	42	40
Barnsley	33	9	13	11	39	39	40
Swindon	33	10	9	14	44	53	39
Portsmouth	34	9	11	14	46	52	38
QPR	33	8	10	15	35	44	34
Oxford Utd	33	8	9	16	34	54	33
Port Vale	33	9	4	20	33	60	31
Bury	33	7	10	16	28	50	31
Bristol City	33	5	13	15	42	61	28
Crewe	33	6	8	19	38	66	26

SECOND DIVISION: Bournemouth 0 Fulham 1; Chesterfield 2 Millwall 1; Northampton 0 Wrexham 2.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	32	21	6	5	50	24	69
Preston	33	19	8	6	63	33	65
Walsall	33	18	7	8	45	38	61
Gillingham	32	15	13	4	53	27	58
Bournemth	31	15	9	7	51	30	54
Man City	32	13	13	6	39	24	52
Chesrfld	32	14	8	10	37	29	50
Wigan	31	14	7	10	45	30	49
Millwall	34	13	10	11	39	40	49

THIRD DIVISION: Leyton Orient 2 Torquay 0.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Ross County 4 East Stirling 2.

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL: England 4 Italy 1.

CLUB MATCH: Rangers 4 Middlesbrough 4.

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Quarter-final: Doncaster 3 Northwich 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Gainsborough 2 Whitby 0.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Ashford 2 Chelmsford 1. League Cup: *Third-round replay:* Bilston 1 Burton 1.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 1 Slough 0. First division: *Grays 1 Braintree 1; Oxford City 0 Whyteleafe 1;* Uxbridge 2 Yeading 0. Second division: Windsor and Eton 0 Horsham 2. *Third division:* Cheshunt 4 Croydon 2; Clapton 0 Egham 3; Corinthian Casuals 5 Aveley 1; Tilbury 4 Hornchurch 3; Ware 0 Ford 2. *Vandanel Trophy: Fourth round:* Tooting and Mitcham 3 Epsom and Ewell 2.

FA OF WALES PREMIER CUP: Quarter-final: Cardiff 3 Swansea 2.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Elgin 4 Wick Academy 2; Rothes 1 Cove 1.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Coca-cola Cup: Quarter-final: Crusaders 1 Cliftonville 2 (aet; 1-1 after 90min).

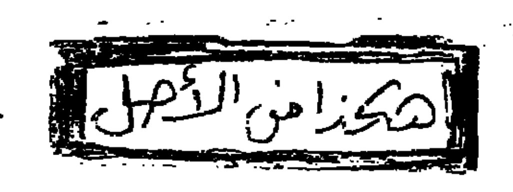
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: QPR 1 Charlton 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 1 Leeds 3. Third division: Halifax 3 Hull 0.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 4 Netherne 3; Ashford 2 Chipstead 1.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 2 Crook 2; Dunston Federation 3 Billingham Town 2; Tow Law 3 Seaham Red Star 1; West Auckland 3 Consett 2.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 1 Watton 1.



FOOTBALL: HARD-WORKING VALERENGA THREATEN TO EXPOSE CHELSEA'S WEAKNESS IN LAST EIGHT OF CUP WINNERS' CUP

Vialli expecting no quarter

By Kevin McCarra

ON A previous visit to Stamford Bridge, when he was still manager of Norway, Egil Olsen was denied entry because he was not wearing the tie that is required in the VIP area. He had to nip round to the supporters' shop and buy one. This evening, as Olsen brings his Valerenga side to the ground, Chelsea may think wistfully of the time when they were able to exclude him from the premises on sartorial grounds.

It is not that Gianluca Vialli will fear the influence of his counterpart on the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final that begins tonight, but he knows that any team under Olsen's control promises a sapping game. Chelsea have had enough of those already. An eclectic signing policy has ensured style, but substance is lacking in the margin of their results.

Chelsea score too few goals and it is uncommon for them to enjoy the respite of an easy win. On Saturday, although performing with polish, Vialli's side produced a 2-1 FA Carling Premiership victory over Liverpool despite directing only two shots on target.

Close contests prolong stress and increase weariness, making it all the more important that Vialli husbands his resources, particularly because Chelsea must travel to Old Trafford for an FA Cup quarter-final against Manchester United on Sunday. In choosing the line-up to face Valerenga, the player-manager will have to decide if he should spare Tore Andre Flo, who is yet to recover complete fitness after injury, and pick himself in attack instead.

He might also allow himself a small sigh over the unavailability of Bjarne Goldbaek, the midfield player who has scored three goals in his past two games. Goldbaek, like Mikael Forssell, is cup-tied.

It is impressive, though, that Vialli rarely allows exasperation to siphon off energy. He was not provoked by Olsen's claim that he could put Chelsea's resources to more effective use. "If he can do a better job here," Vialli said, "he should speak to Ken Bates and try and take over." The joke could be made safely because the Chelsea chairman has no cause to contemplate replacing his manager. Even allowing for Lazio's presence in the tournament, Chelsea could well retain the Cup Winners' Cup in its final year.

All of Chelsea's industry will be needed to overcome the immediate obstacle and, if Valerenga are in a defensive posture this evening, the going may be slightly easier in the return leg in Oslo. The Norwegians expect to tax Vialli's side, but are modest about their prospects of actually triumphing. Olsen, a boffin, puts Valerenga's chances at a mere 17.6 per cent.

Their prospects were too small to measure when 3-0 down to Besiktas in Turkey in the last round, yet they recovered to draw 3-3 and advance to the quarter-finals on a 4-3 aggregate. On that occasion, Valerenga happened to be booked into a hotel close to the ground and the players, lolling on their balconies, enjoyed the sight of the crowd gathering over the course of the day. In view of the events that ensued, they have taken that practice to be a lucky charm.

This week, they have stayed at the Chelsea Village hotel at Stamford Bridge. A small club can afford to be unconventional and contentment appears to be Valerenga's secret weapon. Free from the perplexities of fame and wealth, life takes a harmonious shape for them and the accord with their own supporters is impressive. Accepting that some had an old-fashioned taste for standing, Valerenga removed the seats from one section of the Bislett Stadium, where their domestic fixtures are played.

The fans are owed attentiveness. When the club was on the brink of collapse in 1994, they took to the streets of Oslo with collecting tins. One can appreciate why Olsen was willing to take a post at such a place. The squad also had a certain appeal, since it includes John Carew, the teenage forward who may attract bids from clubs such as AC Milan, Manchester United and Bologna.

Carew, like the rest of the team, works within the direct approach preached by Olsen. He likes to claim that every side in the world played like Norway when they were 1-0 down with five minutes remaining. Why, he wondered, did they not just start in that manner? Chelsea will have to deal with Olsen's unsettling logic tonight.

BIG MATCH LINE-UPS				
CHELSEA				
		E De Goey		(possible; 4-4-2)
A Ferrer	M Desailly	F Leboeuf	G Le Saux	
D Petrescu	R di Matteo	D Wise	C Babayaro	
	G Vialli	G Zola		
VALERENGA				
		J Carew		
T Hovi	D Riisnaes	B Levernes	J Walltin	K Kaasa
H Tran	F Kjolner	K Haraldsen	T Berntsen	
		M Kaven		
(possible: 4-5-1)				Referee: B Gunter (Austria)

Kick-off: 7.45. Television: Channel 5 (7.15 live). Radio: Talk Radio (7.00)

Minnows rise on Olsen's return

Andrew Warshaw finds a unique coach preaching a familiar philosophy

Same Wellington boots, same long-ball game, same detailed computerised analysis of opponents' strengths and weaknesses: Egil Olsen, who really can lay claim to the term "professor", is back in the limelight that he has always tried to shun. And not a lot has changed.

Olsen, Norway's most successful coach, was supposed to have turned his back on football after guiding his country past Scotland and into the second round at the World Cup finals in France last summer. He was looking forward to taking up a job as a professor of sport at Oslo University and spending more time with his 4-year-old daughter high in the hills overlooking the Norwegian capital. So much so that he even rejected the chance to manage Celtic and become an instant hero with the green and white half of Glasgow.

Yet, when it came to rescuing Valerenga, Chelsea's opponents in the Cup Winners' Cup at Stamford Bridge tonight, Olsen was torn. After all, this was his home-town team, a club nicknamed the Bohemians, with a strong working-class background and a fan base of which Olsen was a committed member.

"At first I said 'no', but when they lost the next three games, I just had to help them," Olsen, 56, said as he put the finishing touches to what he expects will be the toughest task of his managerial career tonight. "They were rock bottom of the Norwegian league and facing relegation. I would not have returned for any other club. What swung it was that I didn't have to move away — but I'm still not sure I have done the right thing."

Olsen not only saved Valerenga from relegation, he pulled them up to a respectable seventh place when the Norwegian league season ended in October, winning seven of their last nine games. Furthermore, their record in Europe this season has been even more impressive. Rapid Bucharest, the Romanian side, were beaten: so, too, were Besiktas, of Turkey.

Beating the Turks was a remarkable achievement. After a 1-0 win in the home leg, Valerenga were three goals down *at half-time in Istanbul*. Olsen changed tactics, switched to 4-3-3 and saw his side claw back all three goals in a 12-minute spell in the second half.

"The Turks were completely shellshocked," Anders Krystad, the unconventional, shaven-headed Valerenga managing director, said. "At half-time, Egil studied the scene and said we could still pull back. It was a miracle. It took a hell of a lot of persuasion to get him to join us last summer, but it has already paid dividends."

As a result, Olsen, the first man to take Norway into the World Cup finals when they qualified for the 1994 tournament, has now been given a three-year contract at Valerenga, with the option to leave after one full season. In return, the club is getting a familiar formula.

"The ground principles of the way my teams play have not changed," Olsen said. "I still play with a zonal defence and with as few passes as possible. It may not look very spectacular, but it's the most penetrative and effective way of playing."

Olsen was out in his trademark Wellington boots for training within hours of arriving in London on Monday, but he does not need to do too much analysis when it comes to his opponents tonight. He knows the Chelsea squad well.

"I'm not too optimistic, but we have a slight chance and we need to grab it," he said. "We'll have to play very carefully. Our best chance of scoring is probably at a set-play or a counter-attack. We will play a lot of long balls with not many touches. We'll probably run a lot more than Chelsea, even though they will probably have the ball most of the time."

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT



Olsen guided Norway to a famous victory over Brazil during the World Cup last year

SWIMMING

World Cup suffers stark final warning

From Craig Lord in Imperia, Italy

BY THE tenth of the 17 races that took place yesterday, when Yana Klochkova, of Ukraine, became the World Cup medley champion courtesy of the 12 points that victory in the 200 metres had brought her, it had become obvious that the annual winter short-course series cannot survive in its existing format. Until that point, despite fast and tight races, not *one stroke had made a* scintilla of difference to the outcome of a World Cup series that has ballooned this year to 12 rounds.

Mustapha Larfaoui, the president of Fina, the international governing body of swimming, had opened the session with the words: "Welcome to the World Cup final." However, what took place beneath the tented roof of the Felice Cascione pool here yesterday was not a World Cup final but a final warning for the World Cup.

Beyond the 2min 12.01sec effort of Klochkova, only the victory of Milos Milosevic, of Croatia, in the 50 metres butterfly, in 23.77sec, had any bearing upon the 12 categories that offer cash prizes to the first three finishers in the series, six each for men and women. Milosevic has one point less than James Hickman, of Great Britain, in the butterfly category and if, as expected, he finishes better than fifth in the 100 metres today, Milosevic will overtake Hickman in the race for the $2,500 third prize, the Briton having raced in only three rounds, at which he was unbeaten over 100 and 200 metres.

Several new Russians and Hungarians made their marks, among them Anatoli Poliakov, of Russia, 19, who finished second in the 200 metres *butterfly in 1min 55.81sec, Dim*itri Komornikov, his countryman, the winner of the 200 metres breaststroke, and Eva Risztov, of Hungary, who, at just 13, beat three of Britain's best 800 metres freestyle swimmers in an impressive 8min 32.40sec.

SAILING

Autissier pays tribute to rescuer Soldini

ISABELLE AUTISSIER yesterday paid a moving tribute to her friend and fellow competitor, Giovanni Soldini, after the pair sailed together into Punte del Este in Uruguay on board *FILA*, at the end of an eventful leg three in the Around Alone Race (Edward Gorman writes).

Autissier has been a "passenger" on *FILA* since February 15 when her own Open 60, *PRB*, capsized 1,900 miles west of Cape Horn.

Soldini, who was 200 miles from her position, immediately responded to a request to rescue her, a task he performed efficiently. Speaking at the Yacht Club Punte del Este shortly after *FILA* crossed the finish line to record back-to-back wins in the two Southern Ocean legs of the race, Autissier said: "If I'm here today, if I'm able to speak to you, to laugh or cry or whatever, it's because Giovanni came. He had the huge responsibility to save my life, which is a terrible responsibility. He did it because he is a gentleman of the sea, because he's a wonderful sailor and because he has a great seamanship spirit."

The Italian now has only to complete the last leg back to Charleston to win the race.

In Auckland, Dawn Riley's *America True*, with consecutive wins, is the leader after two day of the Road to America's Cup Regatta.

Computers to help take strain for leading players

GOLF

From John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent
in Miami

FORGET titanium. Graphite is no longer the secret. Isopur won't cut it. The rage among the pros is Think Pads. It was revealed here on the eve of the Doral Ryder Open that 204 tour pros have been given these computers by IBM to help them to organise their schedules, check their swings with their coaches, do their expenses, keep track of their playing statistics, check their investments, communicate with their families.

As Think Pads normally cost $4,000 (about £2,500), this is a case of to those that have, shall be given. The players have also been offered a three-hour induction course in how to use the computer.

It has not yet been determined whether a pro who drops out of the exempt category at the end of each year will have to return his Think Pad.

A core group of players, including David Duval, joined in a ten-month collaboration programme to create, design, test and refine the software package. Since Duval is at present enjoying the most sensational run of form on the PGA Tour, it might be deduced it is in part at least because of his use of the computer.

The Doral tournament, played over the famed Blue Monster course, is the first of the year to be staged on the East Coast of the United States. Its field has been reduced in quality by the extra money and incentives that were offered to players to appear in the seven tournaments on the West Coast.

Last year, Doral attracted five of the top six players in the world and 18 of the top 30: this year it has Ernie Els of the top six and 11 of the top 30.

The Blue Monster, which was redesigned by Ray Floyd in 1997, has been returned to its original form after complaints by the pros. "If anything, it's too easy now," Nick Faldo, who is embarking on a run of events in the United States in an attempt to climb back up the world rankings from his present position of 86th, said.

Also paying close attention to the rankings is Patrick Sjoland who, along with Eduardo Romero, received a sponsor's invitation to this event after his good performance in the World Match Play Championship last week. Sjoland is now 51st in the rankings and the top 50 players will receive invitations to the Masters next month based on their world rankings at the end of this event.

A further incentive for the Swede is that if he continues to play well in this country then he might join the US tour and become eligible for a Think Pad.

Torrance makes return to action

From Mel Webb in Penina, Portugal

THE European Tour season is eight weeks old today and, glory be, it has at last arrived in Europe after all that intercontinental gallivanting. Already some some of the circuit's more energetic performers have played dozens of competitive rounds on three continents — Sam Torrance, on the other hand, has played two rounds, full stop.

Torrance, 45, is a living embodiment of a curious little paradox in that he is one of the tour's most durable players and also one of its most injury-prone. For Torrance to negotiate a season unsullied by some esoteric malaise or another is about as likely as snow in the Sahara and yet, gallant soldier that is is, he keeps plodding along, head down, gazing ruminatively at a spot on the ground that is constantly about two yards ahead of his feet.

This year Torrance has wasted no time at all in getting *the nasties over and done with in his 28th season on tour.* He flew a very great distance in January intending to play in the South African Open, but it was not long before he had to pull out of the tournament, the victim of a slipped disc at the base of his neck and a displaced rib. His aching body was telling him something, but Torrance was having none of it, so he hopped on another plane and flew to Western Australia to play in the Heinken Classic the following week.

This time, he faced the pain, and it beat him. Two rounds, missed cut, still hurting, back to his Surrey home. And there he has stayed ever since, while subjecting himself to a regular pummelling by Sophie Denham, a physiotherapist from Egham.

The upshot is that Torrance is in the Algarve for the Portuguese Open this week, having returned to the Penina course for which he has the most yielding of soft spots.

It was here that, as Rookie of the Year in 1972, he received *two weeks'* coaching from Henry Cotton, the patriarch of Penina, and here, too, that he won this championship ten years on. If the past can affect the performances of the present, Torrance should be in for a good week.

Torrance said, with no great apparent conviction, that it would be nice to to do well here, although he was still in pain. At such times as this it is best to watch his mouth, and if he allows himself a small, enigmatic smile, nothing is more certain than that he will be trying like fury.

Yesterday he smiled: the rest should probably watch out.




Torrance: durable

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **EQUESTRIANISM:** Ian Stark, a member of the gold medal-winning team at the 1997 Open European Championships at Burghley, heads the list of 16 three-day-event riders named yesterday by the British Horse Trials Association as the "elite group" being groomed for the Sydney Olympic Games.
SQUAD: C Bartle, W Fox-Pitt, I Stark, P Phillipps, P Beckett, A M Evans, J Tulloch, J Brakewell, K Dixon, K Gilford, G Parsonage, N Taylor, L Law, O Moore, K Parker, and C Ridley

■ **SQUASH:** England will challenge a Rest of the World squad in the schedule vacuum created by the postponement of the British Open Squash Championship at the end of this month. The *new British champion, Paul* Johnson, of Kent, will lead the England squad. The matches will be at Lambs Club in London on March 26, Edgbaston Priory in Birmingham on March 27, and Abbeydale Park in Sheffield on March 28.

■ **ATHLETICS:** Spencer Oliver will cap a remarkable recovery by competing in the London Marathon next *month.* The former European super-bantamweight champion, from Barnet, was fighting for his life last May after being beaten by Sergei Devakov in a title defence at the Royal Albert Hall. He had an operation to *remove a blood clot from his* brain and spent two days on a ventilator before recovering.

■ **CYCLING:** National road racing champion Matt Stephens leads his Harrods team in its first event of the season, the 50 miles Silver Beck Rymer race on the Aintree circuit on Saturday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana [illegible] Atlanta 77 Washington [illegible] Cleveland 116 Boston [illegible] New Jersey [illegible] Milwaukee 94 Miami 85 New York 84 [illegible] Minnesota 80 Golden State 79 Chicago [illegible] Detroit 108 Dallas [illegible] Los Angeles [illegible] Houston 82 San Antonio 99 [illegible] Utah 100 (OT) Vancouver 101 [illegible] 111

BOWLS

EXETER: EWIBA Indoor championships: Pairs: Quarter-finals: C Webb and J Robinson (North Walsham) bt B [illegible] and A Burdett (Tonbridge) [illegible] (after extra end); J Wilson and P Strong (Lincoln) bt L Turn and B Brown [illegible] 23-21; G Winstone and I Molyneux (Oxford C and C) bt N Grun and [illegible] (Exeter) 24-14; M Playle and J [illegible] (Lenome Row) bt C Ashby and P Carr (Eastbourne) 22-14. **Semi-finals:** Webb and Robinson bt Wilson and Strong 21-18; Winstone and Molyneux bt Playle and [illegible] 20-15. **Final:** Webb and Robinson bt Winstone and Molyneux 24-15

CRICKET

First Test match

New Zealand v South Africa

AUCKLAND (final day of five): New Zealand drew with South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 621 for 5 dec (D J Cullinan 275 not out, G Kirsten 128, S M Pollock 69 not out, J N Rhodes 63)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 352 (M J Horne 93, C Z Harris 68 not out)

Second Innings

M J Horne c Adams	60
M Bell c Donald b Pollock	6
R G Twose c Cullinan b Klusener	65
N J Astle not out	69
C D McMillan not out	22
Extras (b 13, lb 2, w 2, nb 5)	22
Total (3 wkts)	**244**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-104, 3-193

BOWLING: Kallis 13-0-61-0, Pollock 13-5-21-1, Donald 9-2-20-0, Klusener 12-6-26-1, Adams 30-11-96-1, Cronje 6-3-5-0

Umpires: D J Harper (Australia) and D B Cowie

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: London Knights 5 Manchester Storm 4 (OT)

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Phoenix 2; Montreal 4 Philadelphia 1; Tampa Bay 2 Washington 8; New York Islanders 2 Ottawa 4; New York Rangers 2 Dallas 2; Nashville 1 St Louis 5

OXFORD LENT RACES

MEN: Second division: St Catherine's bpd Wadham; Merton bpd St John's; LMH bpd Hertford; Jesus bpd St Anne's; Mansfield bpd St Anne's. **Third division:** Corpus Christi bpd Linacre; Pembroke II [illegible] New College II; Christ Church II bpd New College II; Magdalen II bpd New College II; Balliol II bpd University II; St Hugh's bpd University II. **Fourth divison:** Somerville bpd Oriel III; St John's II bpd LMH II; SEH II bpd LMH II; Wadham II bpd Worcester II. **Fifth division:** Jesus II bpd Exeter II; St Peter's II bpd Merton II; St Benet's Hall bpd Hertford II and Magdalen III; University III bpd [illegible] IV and Trinity II; Oriel IV did not row. **Women: Second division:** Merton bpd Wolfson; Jesus bpd Hertford; Worcester bpd Hertford; Balliol bpd Magdalen; Magdalen bpd Hertford; Keble bpd Hertford. **Third division:** Exeter bpd St Anne's; St Hugh's and Linacre; Linacre bpd Mansfield; Wolfson II bpd LMH II and Wadham II; St Antony's bpd Merton II

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Postponed: Oldham v Featherstone

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND A TEAM (to play Ireland A at Donnybrook tomorrow): **C Catling** (Gloucester), **S Hanley** (Sale), **J Ewens** (Bedford), **B-J Mather** (Sale), **S Brown** (Richmond), **M Mapletoft** (Gloucester), **N Walshe** (Harlequins), **R Woodman** (Gloucester), **G Chuter** (Saracens), **W Green** (Wasps), **R Fidler** (Gloucester), **G Archer** (Newcastle), **B Clarke** (Richmond), **A Vander** (Richmond), **A Diprose** (Saracens, capt). **Replacements: J Baxendell** (Sale), **N Burrows** (London Irish), **M Wood** (Wasps), **G Seely** (Northampton), **M Cornwell** (Gloucester), **N Hatley** (London Irish), **R Kirke** (London Irish)

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3b (Yokohama to Shanghai, with miles to finish): Equal 1, Senica (R Dean) and Ariel (A Thomson) 714; 3, Tuckering (N Fleming) 729; 4, Thermopylae (M Todd) 736; 5, Antelope (K Harris) 765; 6, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 793; 7, Mermerus (B Sayers) 794

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Masters: First round: A McManus (Scot) bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-4; S Hendry (Scot) bt P Davies (Wales) 5-4; J Parrott (Eng) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-4; N Bond (Eng) bt D Finbow (Eng) 5-0; J Higgins (Scot) bt I McCulloch (Eng) 5-2; D Morgan (Wales) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-4; M Williams (Wales) bt H Abernethy (Scot) 5-3; K Doherty (Ire) bt C W Tai (HK) 5-3

SWIMMING

IMPERIA, Italy: World Cup: Short-course event: Winners: Men: Freestyle: 100m: D Pimankov (Russ) 48.83sec. **British placing:** 3, S Brim 49.64. **400m:** E Brembilla (It) 3min 45.08sec. **Backstroke: 100m:** S Ostapchuk (Russ) 54.08. **British placing:** 8, N Willey 56.07. **Breaststroke: 50m:** D Fioravanti (It) 29.05. **200m:** D Komornikov (Russ) 2:08.99. **Butterfly: 50m:** M Milosevic (Cro) 23.77. **200m:** D Silantiev (Ukr) 1:54.94. **Medley: 100m:** C Keller (Ger) 55.24. **British placing:** 5, Brim 57.25. **400m:** M Wouda (Holl) 4:10.07. **British placing:** 6, D Wagg 4:23.09. **Women: Freestyle: 50m:** S Volker (Ger) 25.00. **200m:** M Jacobsen (Den) 1:57.81. **British placing:** 5, N Jackson 1:59.20. **800m:** E Risztov (Hun) 8:32.40. **British placings:** 3, S Collings 8:37.75; 4, N Brown 8:39.58. **Backstroke: 50m:** I Hlavackova (Cze) 28.62. **British placings:** 4, K Jiggins 29.48; 5, R Cornish (GB) 29.65. **200m:** A Kiss (Hun) 2:10.99. **British placing:** 8, Jiggins 2:20.15. **Breaststroke: 100m:** A Kovacs (Hun) 1:07.06. **Butterfly: 100m:** J Sieberg (Swe) 58.63. **Medley: 200m:** Y Klochkova (Ukr) 2:12.01

TENNIS

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: First round: C Pioline (Fr) bt M Puerta (Arg) 7-6, 6-2; P Sampras (US) bt R Delgado (Par) 7-6, 6-2; A Agassi (US) bt F Meligeni (Br) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; L Hewitt (Aus) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Ilie (Aus) bt C Woodruff (Aus) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6; H Gumy (Arg) bt S Schalken (Holl) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1; N Lapentti (Ec) bt A Farid (Fam) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; F Clavet (Sp) bt N Escude (Fr) 6-7, 6-1, 6-2

COPENHAGEN OPEN: First round: D Sanguinetti (It) bt J Landsberg (Swe) 6-2, 6-7, 6-1; S Koubek (Austria) bt A Clement (Fr) 7-5, 6-2; B Karbacher (Ger) bt J Kroslak (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-7, 6-1; W Black (Zim) bt T Ketola (Fin) 4-6, 6-3, 6-0; G Pozzi (It) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-5, 7-5; M Mirnyi (Bela) bt M Kohlmann (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; S Grosjean (Fr) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; N Kulti (Swe) bt A Vinciguerra (Swe) 6-1, 6-3; N Godwin (SA) bt P Wessels (Hol) 6-2, 6-3. **Second round:** F Santoro (Fr) bt Koubek 6-1, 6-2.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 23pts £256.70, 22 £3.10, 21 £0.50. **Four draws:** £12.50. **Five aways:** £1.00. **Eight homes:** £23.80.
LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £44,845.75, 23 £489.45, 22 £25.85, 21 £3.75. **Half-time:** 20 £57.90. **Four draws:** £15.15. **Nine homes:** £50.35. **Five aways:** £13.65.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £18,996.80, 23 £260.50, 22 £29.95.
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £6,672.95, 23 £39.35, 22 £4.20, 21 £0.65. **Four aways:** £1.10. **Eight homes:** £31. **Four draws:** £11. **Easy six:** £29. **All-draws treble chance:** 24 £171.10, 23 £2.45. **Lucky numbers:** 37 9 35 8 26 11

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals, first leg

Chelsea v Valerenga (7.45)
L'motiv Moscow v Maccabi Haifa (5.0)
Panionios v Lazio (7.45)
Varteks v Real Mallorca

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Third-round replay: Colwyn Bay v Droylsden

RYMAN LEAGUE: Puma Cup: Third round: Canvey Island v Hendon.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Crystal Palace

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Second division: Bradford v Huddersfield (7.0)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Crockenhill v Canterbury

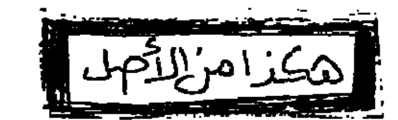
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Les Phillips Cup: Quarter-final: Tiverton v Melksham

***MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE:* Premier division:** Buckingham Athletic v Barkingside; Somersett Ambury v Toddington, Waltham Abbey v Ruislip Manor, Welwyn Garden v Hillingdon Borough.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bandon v Lye Town

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Cardiff Devils (7.0), Newcastle Riverkings v Bracknell Bees (7.15), Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (7.0)



ATHLETICS: A SPRING IN THE STEP OF THE WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sprinters feel rub of the Green

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

AT ONE end of the Green Dome here, where the seventh world indoor championships begin tomorrow, two portable shrines stood yesterday, ready for employment in the opening ceremony. The omikoshi, to use the Japanese, are said to drive away evil spirits and purify the land over which they pass.

Try telling that to the sprinters. No matter how many times the shrines are carried across the arena, there will be no purifying the land beneath the world's fastest feet. The sprinters and the horizontal jumpers, who convert pace into distance, are not best pleased with the track.

"A big trampoline" was how Sarka Kasparkova, Ashia Hansen's main rival for the women's triple jump gold medal, described the runway, which mirrors the construction of the lanes. "It is perfect for us but the sprinters are going to have a nightmare," Andy Hart, the Great Britain 800 metres runner, said. "Too bouncy." Marcus Adam, the AAA 200 metres champion, forewarned.

John Smith, coach to Maurice Greene, the 60 metres world record holder and favourite to win here, stamped a foot on the Mondo synthetic surface laid on wood and only half-jokingly said he would have preferred a bottom layer of cement. If a world record comes it will be in spite of the track and not because of it.

Greene, from the United States, equalled Donovan Bailey's 50 metres world indoor record of 5.56sec three weeks ago and was only 0.01sec outside his own 60 metres world record of 6.39sec in the semi-finals of the US championships last weekend. The Green Dome is expecting nothing less than a Greene victory.

This assumes that Greene does not suffer a repeat of the US final, in which he stumbled and was beaten by Tim Harden. Greene is known as the Kansas City cannonball and now there is a double boom coming from that direction. Harden, too, is from Kansas City.

Harden's 6.44sec last weekend elevates him to equal third, with Ben Johnson, on the all-time list. Only Greene and Andre Cason are ahead. In a field which also includes Deji Aliu, the Nigerian who ran 6.48 last month, Jason Gardener, though he is the fastest European this winter with 6.52, will have his work cut out to be among the medals for Britain.

Gardener, though, has achieved the consistency that suggests that he may be ready to take another step up. A step back in time is being taken by John Regis and Kevin Little. It is ten years since Regis became Britain's first world indoor champion, winning the 200 metres. Little, from the United States, was third that day. However, with Frankie Fredericks present nobody is predicting victory for Regis or Little, who is the defending champion.

All individual event winners receive $50,000 (£31,000), except for the woman who must work the hardest. The winner of the women's pole vault must beat 25 others but, because the event is still developing, she will receive only $37,500. None of the other nine field events has more than 15 athletes competing.

Max Jones, the Great Britain performance director, repeated yesterday his opposition to the International Amateur Athletic Federation's decision to turn the field events into straight finals. The harsh standards for qualification have left half the finals with too few athletes for a full complement of 12.

While places go unfilled, some British athletes, among others, have been denied an opportunity to compete. Jones mentioned two Commonwealth champions, Jo Wise (long jump) and Larry Achike (triple jump), as examples. "I am delighted at the lack of entries for the field events because it is an experiment that has gone wrong," Jones said. "Hopefully they will not repeat it."

An exception is Hansen's event, with 15 entries and heavy with talent. Both the Briton and Kasparkova said yesterday that a jump beyond the world record of 15.16 metres, held by Hansen, may be required to win. This, despite Kasparkova's criticism of the runway. There would be little disadvantage, Kasparkova said, if technique was perfect. "But, if you make one mistake, the runway gives it back to you three times," she said.

Britain's gold medal prospects rest with Hansen, Colin Jackson, in the 60 metres hurdles, Jamie Baulch, in the 400 metres, and the men's 4 x 400 metres squad.

It was in the last world indoor championships, two years ago, that Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born Dane, set an 800 metres world record in his heat and another in the final. Later in the year he went down with malaria and it was a sad sight to see him trail in last in the outdoor European championship final last year. The stadium capacity of 9,000 has sold out for all three days.

Emperor Akihito will attend amid tight security, which means that one Emperor will be watching another. Haile Gebrselassie — 'Go Emperor' are the words on his supporters' club T-shirts — is the unbackable favourite for the 3,000 metres. A world record coming up for the Ethiopian? The track, to the envy of the sprinters, is on his side.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
http://www.iaaf.org/WIC99
TELEVISION:
Friday, BBC2, 2.45pm (highlights)





Wedlund, left, confessed to being anorexic, McGwire, centre, would fail an Olympic dope test, while McColgan once weighed as little as seven stone

Body image produces a distorted picture

There's nothing like a good bout of exercise to work up a healthy appetite. Or is there? A lot of athletes, it turns out, are simply not eating enough.

An alarming initiative was launched last week by the British Olympic Association, UK Athletics and the Eating Disorders Association. They hope to raise awareness of the growing problem of eating disorders. Coaches, family, friends and athletes are to be targeted with details of the early warning signs and risks of anorexia and bulimia nervosa.

The campaign coincides with news that problems in both male and female athletes are running out of control. Research at the University of Leeds by Angie Hulley, the former English cross-country champion and marathon international, reveals that one in ten of Britain's female distance runners has "some kind of eating disorder". They are obsessively convinced that less fat equals more fitness.

It can happen at the highest level. The current European cross-country champion, Sara Wedlund, is a self-confessed anorexic, while Lucy Hassell, the British international runner, became so thin that she was forced to use a wheelchair.

Liz McColgan revealed that in 1988, in the run-up to the Olympics, her weight fell to seven stone. She was outkicked for gold in Seoul. "I was so weak and undernourished I didn't have the energy to sprint for the line," she said.

It is not just running. There are problems in the worlds of ballet, figure-skating, gymnastics, rowing and horse riding. In the United States, wrestlers often binge-eat before a match after starving themselves before the weigh-in. The deaths of three college wrestlers late in 1997 triggered panic and it was revealed that they often exercise in saunas or run or cycle in plastic or rubber clothing to sweat off weight.

Other athletes have been known to use such high-risk techniques as jogging in hot showers while wrapped in plastic bags, swallowing diuretics, laxatives or amphetamines, and self-induced vomiting.



All this will make alarming reading for thousands of parents who will see it as yet another reason why they should not encourage their children to take part in sports already tarnished by drug and financial scandals. Unfortunately just as drugs and eating disorders distort the body, so too, poisoned attitudes to competition and rewards for winning have distorted the very body of sport itself.

Historically it is nonsense. The earliest trainers realised that one of the needs of the sportsman in vigorous training was a plentiful and nutritious food supply. Whenever food has been short it has been seen as a handicap to performance.

In the run-up to the first postwar Olympics in 1948, when food rationing was in force, British hopefuls were offered extra food parcels. And the very earliest manuals on distance running laid great emphasis on the quality and quantity of food — plentiful roast beef, roast and boiled mutton or chicken, vegetables and stale crusty bread, all washed down with ale. The meat was usually taken before the longest work-out of the day. On the move, the athletes topped up with mutton stew, calf's foot jelly or eel broth, and drank beef tea, coffee, ginger ale, milk, and at times champagne and brandy.

Today's experts believe that eating disorders are especially common among athletes because of the pressure on them. Competition reinforces characteristics such as perfectionism, obsessive behaviour, the desire to control physique and attention to detail. Most successful athletes are more determined and disciplined than the average. They set the highest goals and work extra hours to achieve them.

The same pressure that will drive one athlete to bulk up by the illegal use of steroids is the engine that drives another to shed weight through anorexia and bulimia. They just see different paths to producing what they believe will be the perfect and winning body.

The body images, thin or thick, come from the top. Every American schoolboy knows that Mark McGwire, the St Louis Cardinals' baseball super-slugger, bulks his body with the drug androstenedione. The stuff is banned by the International Olympic Committee but Major League Baseball has this week declined again to ban it. Thousands of kids will go on trying to buy a body like McGwire's at their local drugstore.

They want the body and they hunger for the rewards that follow. For excelling in sport is increasingly seen as a lucrative stepping stone to a glittering quasi-showbiz career where image is all. Such a distorted view pushes everything else aside. A well balanced athlete will enjoy home, career, hobbies, friends and intellectual and cultural pursuits. But if sport is allowed to dominate completely there is dangerous imbalance.

Putting lottery money into pumping children through sporting hothouses of excellence, with the lure of gold dangling ever before them, is all very well, and of course coaches and doctors must be on the lookout to pick up the pieces when young people are physically or psychologically damaged by their sport.

But there will always be too many such victims while the leaders of sport whip up the appetite for fame and fortune above all else, when what they should be putting back on the menu is the joy and fun that sport has long lost.

JOHN BRYANT

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

SHEITEL
(b) Among strictly Orthodox Ashkenazi Jews, a wig worn by a married woman.

UJAMAA
(c) The name given by President Nyerere of Tanzania to a kind of socialism he introduced in that country in the 1960s.

SPUMONI
(a) A kind of ice-cream dessert. The word comes from the Italian spuma spume or foam.

WUWEI
(a) The Taoist doctrine of letting things follow their own course.

Yesterday's answers should have been:

GALAX
(c) An evergreen plant native to the south-eastern United States.

BELLUM
(a) A small boat or canoe used in ports along the shores of the Persian Gulf.

DATO
(b) A landowner or chief in northern Borneo, Philippine Islands, and some adjacent areas.

GALIGNANI
(c) Colloquial appellation of the English-language newspaper *Galignani's Messenger*, published daily in Paris until 1884

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Nxg6! hxg6 2 e6+ Qc7 3 Bf4 1-0

TELEVISION CHOICE

Seaside shenanigans

Harbour Lights
BBC1 8pm

Roy Hudd pops up in Bridehaven tonight, a spurned husband in his wife's car (piled high with her brightest frocks), in search of the (now vanished) B&B in which he had a night of passion some decades ago. Harbourmaster Mike (Nick Berry) is quick to spot a wounded stray and soon has him metaphorically tucked up with Aunt Nicholls (Paola Dionisotti, looking increasingly like Sheila Hancock's long-lost sister). Hudd is actually suicidal, making increasingly pathetic attempts to end it all and giving away all his money (which his wife regards as hers). Meanwhile, Rita Blade's loutish son Jason seeks revenge on her former employer by making a hoax bomb threat.

Nick Berry and Tina Hobley star in the drama *Harbour Lights* (BBC1, 8pm)

Access All Areas: The Half Monty
Channel 4, 8.30pm

A film about a group of small people (formerly called dwarves or people of restricted growth) who decided to form a male striptease troupe called, inevitably, The Half Monty. They tour the country playing to apparently enthusiastic audiences who, they say, accept them as professional dancers and performers, and by no means regard them as a freak show. Well, up to a point... Sam Bagnall and Cilla Ware's film gives the men the chance to make their point both verbally and in performance, although the latter reveals that precision in choreography is not their speciality. I am not sure why male strippers are such a popular attraction, but it is undeniable that The Half Monty, with their enthusiasm and the obvious pride they take in themselves and in their work, deserve to be cashing in as much as anybody else.

Ramsay's Boiling Point
Channel 4, 9pm

The fact that changes were being made in the editing of this, the second of five programmes about the London chef-proprietor Gordon Ramsay, right up to our press deadline, indicates the, um, sensitivity of those involved. With his new restaurant apparently taking in excess of £50,000 a week (not bad going on 40 covers for lunch and 45 for dinner), he has already sacked six of his staff and now finds himself in a media storm over expelling the *Sunday Times* critic A.A. Gill and his friends (including Joan Collins). Still, he can hardly complain about being tagged a "celebrity chef" after 35 photoshoots and 40 interviews in six months and a feature in *OK!* magazine.

Wheeler Dealers: Clubs
BBC2, 8.30pm

Two teams of three, led by Marlene (Rotherham, shrewd) and Austin (London, not as fly as he thinks), attempt to convert £1,000 and the use of a club for a night, into a profit, by staging a one-off event, with only five working days to pull everything together, from promotion to booking performers. Peter Stringfellow gives Marlene advice on her karaoke evening with celebrity look-alikes and amateur go-go dancers; Austin goes for a mixture of popular DJs and aspiring bands. Neither evening appears to be nearly as much fun as watching these two trios trying to set them up, and how Marlene attempts to make it three wins in a row. Tony Patrick

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: A Mere Thousand Pounds
Radio 4, 2.15pm

This play in the *Assassins* season is by David Pownall and it stars David Horovitch, so the writing and performance credits are sufficient to make it worth listening. What makes that effort even more worthwhile is the remarkable story of John Bellingham, an ordinary man whose claim to fame, or notoriety, is that in 1812 he shot the then Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, at the House of Commons. Pownall's work reveals Bellingham as a tortured man deserving of much sympathy: his business had been ruined by Perceval's absurd trade embargoes against Napoleon and the Government refused to meet even modest demands for compensation. The public's backing for Bellingham was to impact heavily on his trial.

On Tap
Radio 4, 8pm

I do not have a preview tape of *A Drop to Drink*, which is the last in what has been a fascinating series about our national obsession with water. But I recommend that anyone who has missed previous programmes should catch up with the series now, for not the least of its merits is that it provides handy, bite-sized chunks of information which can come in useful when conversations fall flat or take an awkward turn: we shall learn tonight, for example, that East Anglia has the same annual rainfall as Jordan. But the main thrust is to examine the legacy of the Victorians, who designed and built a superb water supply. Just as well because they, like us, got through enormous amounts of the stuff. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce. The best in music 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel. With a session by Quickspace 12.00am Andy Kershaw 2.00 Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Juliet Morris 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Allan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Punt and Dennis: It's Been a Bad Week (4/6) 9.30 Comedy Showcase: If Symptoms Persist. The life of a Jewish cancer consultant (7/7) 10.00 Melly Talks Jazz 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00am Lynn Parsons 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Annie Webster 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 On the Line 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops. Round-up of what's new in British basket ball 9.30 Sportshop 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00pm Justice With Jacobs 1.00 Anna Raeburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Live Coverage of Chelsea v Valerenga 10.30 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 James Merritt 1.00am Steve Power 4.30 Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 From Our Own Correspondent 8.20 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin 8.35 The Works 9.00 World News 9.05 Network 9.20 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Performance 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Assignment 12.00pm World News 12.05 Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 The Works 2.30 Meridian Books 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 The Music Studio 4.45 The Lab 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 Assignment 7.00 World News 7.05 The Works 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 The Music Studio 10.45 The Lab 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00am The World Today 12.30 The Works 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Westway 1.45 Performance 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Focus on Faith 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00 Concerto. Neruda (Trumpet Concerto in E flat major) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Vivaldi (The Four Seasons; Ombre vane inguisti orrori; Trio in A minor; Oboe Concerto in C; Laudate Pueri) 11.00 Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00am Concerto. Neruda (Trumpet Concerto in E flat major) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

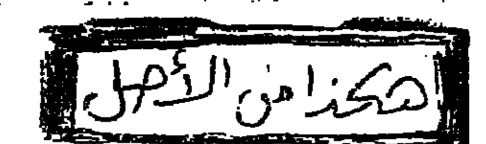
RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air** with Petroc Trelawny
9.00 **Masterworks** with Peter Hobday
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Bernard Haitink**
11.00 **Sound Stories: Family Affairs** The Alain dynasty
12.00pm **Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky**
1.00 **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (Sounding the Century)** Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Anne Queffelec, piano
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras** BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Titov and Osmo Vanska, Josephine Knight, cello
4.00 **Ensemble** Continuing the celebrations marking the centenary of Francis Poulenc
4.45 **Music Machine** with Tommy Pearson
5.00 **In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by the guitarist Slava Grigorian
7.30 **Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century)** Live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. BBC Philharmonic under Vassily Sinaisky, Gillian Callow, cor anglais, Martin Roscoe, piano. MacMillan (The World's Ransoming); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor) 8.35 The Politics of the Romantic Hero 8.55 Concert, part two. Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)
9.45 **Postscript: Cultural Nationalism** (4/5)
10.10 **Music Restored** Lucie Skeaping introduces various treatments of an old Portuguese dance
10.45 **Night Waves** Oprah Winfrey stars in Jonathan Demme's screen version of *Beloved*
11.30 **Jazz Notes** with Alyn Shipton
12.00am **Composer of the Week: Copland** (r)
1.00 **Through the Night** with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.30am **World News** 5.35 **Shipping Forecast**
5.40 **Inshore Forecast** 5.45 **Prayer for the Day**
5.47 **Farming Today** with Ashley Gething
6.00 **Today** with James Naughtie and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) **Yesterday in Parliament**
9.00 **Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time**
9.30 **Q & A** Jez Nelson investigates plastic surgery
9.45 (FM) **Serial: Zarafa** Part four
9.45 (LW) **Daily Service**
10.00 **Woman's Hour** with Jenni Murray
11.00 **Crossing Continents** with Tim Whewell
11.30 **Fat Chance** Part four
12.00 (LW) **News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
12.00pm (FM) **News** 12.04 **You and Yours**
1.00 **The World at One** with Nick Clarke
1.30 **Open Country** Presented by Richard Uridge
2.00 **The Archers** Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 **Afternoon Play: Assassins — A Mere Five Thousand Pounds** See Choice
3.00 **Call You and Yours** 0870 010 0444
3.30 **First Nights** with Sara Parker
3.45 **This Sceptred Isle** Part 44
4.00 **Nice Work** New series
4.30 **The Material World** with Trevor Mitchell
5.00 **PM** with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** 6.30 **Yes, Minister** (r)
7.00 **The Archers** 7.15 **Front Row**
7.45 **The Cry of the Bittern** Broadcast earlier (r)
8.00 **On Tap** See Choice (3/3)
8.30 **The Week in Westminster**
9.00 **Testbeds** with Vanessa Collingridge
9.30 **Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time** (r)
10.00 **The World Tonight** Presented by Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises** Part four (r)
11.00 **Late Night on 4: The Way It Is** Satire
11.30 (FM) **A Good Read** with Thomas Sutcliffe (r)
11.30 (LW) **Today in Parliament**
12.00am **News** 12.30 **The Late Book: Five Stories by Anton Chekhov — Ivan Matveyitch**
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



It's easy to be brave while toting a camera



REVIEW

Joe Joseph

The trouble with cutting a successful path through the TV jungle is that pretty soon you find that you've got a lot of company in what was, until so recently, a broadcasting wilderness. With his previous show, *TV Nation*, and now with his latest Channel 4 series, **Michael Moore: The Awful Truth**, Michael Moore must be either irked or flattered that his TV tricks now crop up so frequently elsewhere.

Not only does Dennis Pennis toss awkward questions at unsuspecting celebrities but Channel 4's Mark Thomas, like Moore, taunts fatcats who he feels are doing the dirty on the common man.

One advantage Moore has over these two is that he's very hard to miss in a crowd. It's not the trademark baseball cap that makes Moore stand out, so much as the fact that he looks like he could be the son of Doberman, from Sgt Bilko's motor pool. The downside is that it's difficult for Moore to disguise himself for the sake of an elaborate trap — unlike, say, that other TV prankster, Chris Morris.

Another difference between Morris and Moore: Morris sets up his pranks to mock the mighty purely for satirical pleasure. Their pointlessness is what makes them so delicious. But Moore likes to have a higher moral purpose, which can force him to walk a tightrope between being a hard cheese and being just cheesy.

His skill is pulling off the televisual trick of playing David against Goliath without coming across as a smug git. This may be because his stunts come across as playground dares. Getting a bunch of people to dress up as witch-hunting New England pilgrims straight out of *The Crucible*, and then getting them to mock-chastise the US Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr as he walks out of his front door on his way to the office for being a pornographer (a pornographer, moreoever, who has spent $50 million of taxpayers' money pursuing a grudge), is making a point about Starr's mental sickness and the absurdity of American politics; but it is also a student Rag Week stunt, something you'd dare only do for a bet, or for a television camera.

It is the presence of a camera that makes the trap work, because we can enjoy watching Moore's victim feel torn between wanting to punch him for his audacity and knowing that when a camera is pointing at you, the safest thing to do is just smile and squirm. You can be a lot braver with a TV camera on your shoulder, which is presumably why Moore has created what he calls The People's Democratic Republic Of Television. In last night's show, Moore successfully bullied a tight-fisted healthcare provider into coughing up for one of its policy-holders to have a pancreas transplant. It was a vintage Moore mixture of barking for the underdog, and vaudeville. It's *That's Life*, only with attitude.

You can imagine Jonathan Newhouse, chairman of Condé Nast International, being just the sort of victim that Moore might enjoy bearding, especially after seeing him on **To Russia with Vogue**, last night's fascinating episode of BBC2's *Trouble At The Top*. When Newhouse decided to launch *Vogue* in the country his grandfather left, penniless, more than a century previously, the last thing he could have imagined was that the magazine's launch would coincide with the collapse of the rouble and the Russian economy.

In one surreal scene, an editorial team was inside *Vogue's* sleek penthouse offices in Moscow, quibbling over whether Julia Ormond or an icy Russian blonde should be on the cover, while outside jobless *miners were staging a sit-down* protest in Red Square.

The bit Moore might have bridled at was when Newhouse said: "We talk about the fight between communism and capitalism, between totalitarianism and freedom; but there was another battle, and that's the battle between ugliness and beauty. People need beauty in their lives, they need beauty in their surroundings, and what they wear. And without beauty people suffer. And I think that one of the reasons communism fell was not only economic, or political, but because it was so ugly."

Hey, it may not be Heidegger, but I'm with Newhouse on this one. Communism *is* too dreary. People can stomach only so much worthiness. That's why Italians drive Alfa Romeos, and why governments subsidise the arts when it would be far more "sensible" to build more hospitals.

Also there was something moving about seeing Newhouse return to his grandfather's birthplace and acknowledge that, whatever his soul might owe to Russia, he would never have become what he is today had grandpa not left for Manhattan.

Now if you thought *Vogue's* Russian birth looked precarious, **Snapshot** (BBC1) showed how much more precarious life gets at the coalface of fashion. It followed the designer Andrew Groves — who is being hailed as the next big thing — preparing for his show at last week's London Fashion Week. But for all the buzz and critical adulation, Groves *is still working out* of his cramped flat, assisted by pattern-cutters and seamstresses and guest-list organisers who are all slaving away for free.

Jane Gabriel's film did a slick job of showing just how unglamorous fashion can be, even when you're the new cock of the catwalk. And how perplexing. How many grown-ups will want to wear Groves's clothes? In his first show, which was "all about disease and decay" (I'll bet Schiaparelli used to say the same thing), not only were the fabrics decomposing, but in one a platoon of bluebottles erupted from inside the dress and swarmed into the audience. Maybe that's what created *all the buzz*.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (54568)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (83907)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2855655)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7313617)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3397181)
11.00 Change That (3487758)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3384617)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7262655)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (78926)
12.30 Wipeout (4838013)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53972013)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (86094)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59801988)
1.40 Neighbours Lance is caught stealing (T) (35941346)
2.05 Ironside The Chief gets new evidence for a seven-year-old case (r) (5155891)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (3815146)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6708988) **3.45** Pocket Dragon (5353839) **3.55** Anthony Ant (9076471) **4.10** The All New Popeye Show (6228365) **4.20** Home Farm Twins (6144487) **4.35** Short Change (3375891) **5.00** Newsround (4047617) **5.10** Grange Hill (9734704)
5.33 Rewind (T) (196013)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (599810)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (471)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (723)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show (T) (8520)
7.30 EastEnders Louise returns (T) (907)
8.00 CHOICE **Harbour Lights** Romance is in the air between Melanie and harbourmaster Mike (T) (806810)
8.50 Points of View Viewers' opinions on recent programmes (T) (759471)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1839)



John McArdle as Graham and Melanie Hill as Rita (9.30pm)

9.30 Playing the Field Rita's meeting with her former husband doesn't leave her full of hope (T) (284636)
10.20 They Think It's All Over Again *With* guest panellists Tony Banks and John Maloney (r) (T) (932758)
10.50 Question Time With Alan Clark and Lady Howe (T) (311549)
11.50 Incident in a Small Town (1993) FILM A prominent judge is accused of killing his daughter's lover, but an investigation reveals the case to be far more complicated. Murder mystery, starring *Walter Matthau and Stephanie Zimbalist*. Directed by Delbert Mann (T) (545549)
1.15am Weather (1466785)
1.20 BBC News 24 (35723360)

WALES:

10.50 Damon Rochefort Tonight (6/6) (531365) **11.20 Question Time** (T) (288487) **12.20am FILM: Incident in a Small Town** (T) (6111281) **1.45 News Headlines and Weather** (T) (1676389) **1.50-6.00 BBC News 24** (57908673)

BBC2

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Snorks **7.50** Blue Peter **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Fiddley Foodle Bird **9.00** Wise Up **9.10** Job Bank **9.20** Job Bank **9.30** Watch **9.45** Come Outside **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Storytime **10.45** The Experimenter **11.05** Space Ark **11.15** Zig Zag **11.35** Pathways of Belief **11.50** Mad About Music **12.10pm** English File **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird
1.10 The House Detectives (r) (41039384)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35962839)
2.10 Awash with Colour (56722988)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3576278)
2.45 Westminster (T) (4946452)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (4096704)
3.30 Turning Points (5332346)
3.35 The Village The day of the fête approaches (r) (4706810)
3.55 Kaye Advice show (9751655)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6430100)
4.55 Esther (T) (5415181)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (100)
6.00 Star Trek: *Deep Space Nine* O'Brien befriends an alien (r) (T) (428100)
6.45 Quantum Leap Sam jumps into the life of a mediocre boxer (r) (T) (813549)
7.30 Local Heroes (r) (T) (549)
8.00 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age The amiable steeplejack takes an informed look at the development of iron and steel industries in Shropshire (T) (5810)



The Red team meet some celebrity look-alikes (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Wheeler Dealers** Two teams of budding entrepreneurs are challenged to make their fortunes in the club promotion industry (T) (1617)
9.00 Red Dwarf The crew escape from their captors, unaware the authorities are on their case (T) (2181)
9.30 Horizon The perfectly preserved bodies of Iron Age murder victims found in a Cheshire peat bog in 1983 are subjected to *modern forensic techniques* in a bid to establish their identities and the cause of death (r) (T) (282278)
10.20 Tales of Tools The *lathe* (T) (364013)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (291346)
11.15 Late Review *Beloved* (368742)
11.55 Skiing Forecast (524636)
12.00am Despatch Box (15747)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Housing — Business as Usual **1.00** From *a Different Shore: An American Identity* **2.00** Further Education: The Key To Study Skills **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: But Is It Any Good? **4.30** Reading Movies **5.00** Teacher Training: Teaching Today Special **5.45** Open University: Visioning in Action **6.10** Lifestyles, Work and the Family (4664765)

WALES:

7.30pm Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age (T) (549) **8.00-8.30 A Welsh Herbal** (2/6) (5810)

HTV WEST

5.30am ITN Morning News (63758)
6.00 GMTV (5019013)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8241742)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44863636)
12.15pm HTV News *(T) (4351278)*
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (98278)
1.00 Shortland Street (71162)
1.30 Home and Away Tom enjoys his 15 minutes of fame (T) (97549)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5648704)
2.45 Wheel of Fortune (T) (984568)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4094346)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4197487)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4007810) **3.35** The Adventures of Dawdle (9067723) **3.45** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (9150487) **4.00** Lavender Castle (6046891) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (5722181) **4.40** Children's Ward (2310384)
5.10 A Country Practice (7199181)
5.36 HTV Crimestoppers (180452)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (120839)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (455278)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (309636)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (794704)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (891)
7.00 Emmerdale Laura hears news (T) (9948)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out A report on the latest developments on dangerous washing machines (425)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week Current affairs issues (425)



Tempers flare between DS Boulton and PC Garfield (8pm)

8.00 The Bill In the second of a three-part episode, Quinnan remains in a critical condition and the finger of blame points firmly at DS Boulton for allowing a personal vendetta to cloud his judgment (T) (4655)
9.00 Infidelity Women who abandoned their partners explain what prompted them to seek greener pastures (T) (4891)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (64723)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (507549)
10.40 Thursday Night Live Hard-hitting debates (309704)
11.40 WEST: Anatomy of Disaster The power and unpredictability of forest and bush fires, revealing how Californian and Australian firefighters tackle these devastating phenomena (445365)
11.40 WALES: We Can Work It Out Dangerous washing machines (748094)
12.10 WALES: *Tales from the Crypt: The Secret* Grace Zabriskie stars (3985259)
12.40am The Jerry Springer Show (7860940)
1.25 Pop Down the Pub (9644563)
1.55 Box Office America Top 10 (7481921)
2.20 Cybernet Computer news (7618853)
2.50 Murder, She Wrote Jessica investigates an unsolved kidnapping (r) (8600747)
3.45 Potty About Pets (86680263)
4.10 Coach (41827650)
4.35 Judge Judy (59647414)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (3634853)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (7599346) **1.00 Echo Point** (71162) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6063655) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (985297) **3.20-3.25 *Central News*** (T) (4197487) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (7199181) **6.25-6.55 Central News;** Weather (T) (463297) **6.55-7.00 Lifeline** (T) (596384) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (507549) **11.45-12.45 The Wright Verdicts** (839669) **1.30am Highlander** (r) (1741245) **2.20 Pop Down the Pub** (r) (7618853) **2.50 T in the Park** (3760124) **3.40 Cybernet** (18657245) **4.10 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6251921) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3639230)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4351278) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (7507365) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (71162) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6063655) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (985297) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4197487) **5.08 Birthday People** (1014948) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7199181) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (90687) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (507549) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (445365)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4351278) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7199181) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (839) **6.30-7.00 Getaways** (9/10) (891) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (507549) **11.40-12.40 New York News** (445365) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (17766)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: ***12.19pm Anglia Air Watch*** (7501181) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7599346) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7199181) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (177988) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (839) **6.30-7.00 About Anglia** (891) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (637471) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (507549) **11.40 Crime Night** (621988) **11.55 First Take** (r) (903094) **12.10am-12.40 Tales from the Darkside** (r) (3985259)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (20565758) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67184617) **9.00 Ysgolion:** History in Action (29444568) **9.20 Geographical Eye** (29424704) **9.40 History in Action** (42558075) **10.00 Middle English** (91957487) **10.20 Fourways Farm** (14397075) **10.30 Scientific Eye** (51836636) **10.50 What the Papers Said** (83887265) **11.00 The Number Crew** (40183907) **11.10 Pitch Fever** (79499926) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68536297) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (97315365) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26133810) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67187704) **1.30 FILM: Background to Danger** (T) (58150013) **3.00 48 Hours in New York** (90408988) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67410988) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67422723) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67428907) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90403433) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67515487) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93751520) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86241723) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90423297) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67429636) **8.00 Slaymaker** (T) (90409617) **8.30 Pam Fi Duw?** (T) (90411452) **9.00 i dot** (68515704) **9.30 Monica - The Interview** (T) (96213051) **10.35 i dot** (35073013) **11.05 Father Ted** (r) (T) (88789810) **11.35 Friends** (T) (92569075) **12.05am King of the Hill** (T) (71682921) **12.35 4 Later;** Prey (99169389) **1.30 Fusion** (3/6) (T) (36736762) **2.05 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.30am The Pink Panther (7328636)
5.40 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (r) (T) (3091926)
5.55 Sesame Street (4576810)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (76617)
9.00 Schools: *History in Action* (T) (4628817) **9.20** Geographical Eye Over Asia (T) (4631181) **9.40** History in Action (T) (1868926) **10.00** Middle English (T) (9042100) **10.20** Fourways Farm (T) (5342742) **10.30** Scientific Eye (T) (1862346) **10.50** What the Papers Said (8132617) **11.00** The Number Crew (T) (9725988) **11.10** Pitch Fever (3568520)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8742)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (61636)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (89520)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (79704)
1.30 Travelog Treks North Korea (59818278)



John Mills stars in Roy Baker's classic thriller (1.45pm)

1.45 The October Man (1947) FILM A chemist with suicidal tendencies is falsely accused of murdering his girlfriend. Psychological thriller, starring John Mills. Directed by Roy Baker (T) (41253162)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (297)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (704)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3472758)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5417549)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (568)
6.00 Dishes Dating show (T) (181)
6.30 Hollyoaks Sean and Cindy get a rude awakening (T) (433)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (714839)
7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank *Photography Prize* *The work of Yinka* Shonibare (T) (621839)
8.00 Wild Tales The weddell seal, able to survive in the Antarctic for longer than any other animal (T) (7278)
8.30 CHOICE **Access All Areas** New series of the programme exploring disabled issues (T) (9013)
9.00 CHOICE **Ramsay's Boiling Point** The renowned critic A.A. Gill is asked to leave Gordon Ramsay's restaurant (3/5) (T) (4549)
9.30 Monica - The Interview Monica Lewinsky talks about her relationship with President Bill Clinton and what the future holds for her (T) (3348742)
10.35 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvisation game (r) (T) (528891)
11.05 Ally McBeal Ally makes a stand against dirty jokes (r) (T) (184617)
12.05am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (4386056)
1.00 Vids Offbeat video review (49853)
1.30 Late Toon: Kakadu Cartoon (1679476)
1.35 NYPD Blue (6663292)
2.30 St Elsewhere (r) (8622969)
3.20 Raffles (1930) FILM Ronald Colman stars as a gentleman thief constantly dogged by the boys in blue (7612476)
4.35 The Unholy Garden (1931) FILM Suave thief Ronald Colman hides out in a Sahara hotel, where he gets involved in a plot to rob a wealthy swindler (2170766)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (5008618)
7.00 WideWorld Part 10. Home economics in school (r) (T) (8283471)
7.30 Milkshake! (2715297)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (4794926)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2917549)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2909520)
9.00 Holiday Park *EastEnders* actress Patsy Palmer visits the park for a holiday (1/5) (r) (2923100)
9.27 Russell Grant's Postcards (4576568)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6489687)
10.20 Sunset Beach Meg realises Ben and Maria are still together (T) (3756810)
11.10 Leeza More studio-based debate (7618079)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2910636)
12.30 Family Affairs Declan flirts with Siobhan (r) (T); 5 News Update (1461758)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Stephanie gets a surprise (T) (8282742)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Tanya Harding, Gordon Michael Scallion and Kato Kaelin join the outspoken comedian (r); 5 News Update (1460029)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9349758)
2.30 Good Afternoon An hour of entertainment, featuring *Liverpool Mums, Cryptogram* and *Selling the Family Silver*; 5 News Update (1874346)
3.30 Thompson's Last Run (TVM 1986) FILM Robert Mitchum stars in this drama about an ageing convict on the run, with Wilford Brimley as the detective on his trail. Directed by Jerrold Freedman; 5 News Update (3944623)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (3847636)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2510839)
6.30 Family Affairs Yasmin's behaviour changes (T) (2594891)
7.00 5 News Update; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (3546346)
7.15 European Cup Winners' Cup Chelsea v Valerenga (kick-off **7.45pm**). Full coverage of the quarter-final first-leg from Stamford Bridge. Presented by Steve Scott, with guests Mark Hughes and Kenny Dalglish. Commentary comes from Jonathan Pearce and Ray Clemence (T) (50909907)
9.50 Football's Foreign Legion Investigation into the influx of foreign players into the English game — could it lead to the death of soccer in England?; 5 News Update (1231988)
10.40 Red Shoe Diaries A stranger entrances a beautiful woman (1854520)
11.20 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Improvised comedy quiz (8532839)
11.50 The Pepsi Chart With a live performanec by Sheryl Crow. Introduced by Neil Fox (8871181)
12.20am Live and Dangerous The through-the-night sports magazine (56700650)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Heather tries to follow Dennis's example, and Judy gets a special prize in Bev's lottery (7201698)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8975105)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (56313) **7.30** Simpsons (15520) **8.00** Simpsons (17879) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (68510) **9.00** Sally (76217) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (11704) **11.00** [illegible] (31548) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (24617) **1.00** Mad About You (35384) **1.30** Jeopardy (37181) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (49094) **3.00** Jenny Jones (65012) **4.00** Oprah (34570) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (5911) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (5723) **6.30** Dream Team (4075) **7.00** Simpsons (1900) **7.30** Simpsons (487) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (6568) **8.30** World's Wildest TV (5075) **9.00** Friends (30704) **9.30** ER (31433) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (97075) **11.00** Dream Team (42549) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (93636) **12.30am** The Commish (81414) **1.30** Long Play (4558673)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
The Edge (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
As Good as It Gets (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Pickup on South Street (1953) (4319162) **8.00 Darkness in Tallinn (1993)** (4320907) **10.00 The Usual Suspects (1995)** (3771758) **11.50 Reservoir Dogs (1991)** (7923384) **1.30am City on Fire (1987)** (6761105) **3.15 Mickey One (1965)** (48948872) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Wedding (1997) (51181) **8.00 The Stone Boy (1984)** (82938) **10.00 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie (1997)** (47568) **12.00pm** The Director: The Films of Herbert Ross (40655) **1.00** Femmes Fatales: Glenn Close (26075) **2.00 The Wedding (1997)** (71549) **4.00 The Stone Boy (1984)** (66745949) **5.45 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie (1997)** (46120033) **7.30** Tracey Takes On: Fame (6297) **8.00** Hollywood Buzz (9278) **8.30 The Chamber (1996)** (17509568) **10.25 Mistrial (1996)** (559278) **12.00am Some Mother's Son (1996)** (120766) **1.55 The Star Maker (1995)** (573495) **3.45 Bounty Hunters (1996)** (27373747)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am They Won't Believe Me (1947) (26908100) **7.15 Torn Between Two Lovers (1979)** (73196734) **9.00 Laura Lansing Slept Here (1988)** (93810) **11.00 Too Close to Home (1997)** (60704) **1.00pm Steel (1997)** (37146) **3.00 Torn Between Two Lovers (1979)** (92453) **5.00 Too Close to Home (1997)** (99487) **7.00 Steel (1997)** (18617) **9.00 Space Truckers (1997)** (60487) **11.00 Adrenalin: Fear the Rush (1996)** (363841) **12.30 Without Warning (1996)** (357015) **2.10 Blue Velvet (1986)** (596747) **4.10 Emmanuelle V (1986)** (5691389)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Road to Singapore (1940) (7390830) **6.00 Call Northside 777 (1948)** (2703985) **8.00 92 in the Shade (1979)** (2793433) **10.00 Julia (1977)** (4645626) **12.00am M*A*S*H (1970)** (8012563) **1.55 The Eighth Day (1996)** (2237230) **3.55 I'll Be Seeing You (1944)** (49645563)

TNT

9.00pm Skyjacked (1972) (33153619) **11.00 Take the High Ground (1953)** (23083346) **1.00am Brotherly Love (1970)** (23074698) **3.00 Skyjacked (1972)** (17492230) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Ringside **11.30** Unbelievable Sports **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** European Tour Weekly **1.00** Live Golf **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** League Review **7.00** Golf **9.00** Spanish Football **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Trans World Sport **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** League Review **1.30** Spanish Football **2.30** Trans World Sport **3.30** Rugby Club **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **9.30** Golf Extra **12.30pm** World Pool League **1.30** Rugby League World **3.00** Australian Rally Championship **3.30** Unbelievable Sports **4.00** World Pool League **5.00** Football League Review **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Futbol Mundial **6.30** The Rugby Club **7.30** Trans World Sport **8.30** Futbol Mundial **9.00** Live US Golf **11.00** Cycling **11.30** The Rugby Club **12.30am** Fishing: Tight Lines **1.30** What A Weekend **2.00** Ice Hockey **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation Superstars **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** FA Cup Final Classics **3.30** V-Max **4.00** Rugby League World **5.30** Inside the PGA Tour **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Fishing: Tight Lines **7.30** Ice Hockey **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Athletics **8.30** Women's Biathlon **10.00** Luge **10.30** Dog Sled Racing **11.00** Football **12.00pm** Athletics **12.30** Snowboarding **1.00** Biathlon **2.00** Live Biathlon **3.30** Nordic Skiing **4.00** Ski-Jumping **5.45** Live Swimming **7.00** Football **11.30** Ski-Jumping **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Sport4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** The Young Ones **9.45** Bottom **10.25** Common as Muck **11.35** The Bill **12.05am** The Bill **12.35** Blackadder the Third **1.10** French and Saunders **1.45** Dangerfield **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart To Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



The bad guys are back in the martial arts action sequel *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation* (Sky Box Office 4)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Our House **7.00** [illegible] **8.00** Animal SOS **8.30** An Inspector Calls **9.00** St Elsewhere **10.00** Tales from the Hollywood Hills **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** *PB and J Otter* **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Alice in Wonderland (1951)** **8.20** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spidermen **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** *Eek!Stravaganza* **11.05** *Bobby's World* **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** Fox Kids X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** *Goosebumps* **4.25** *Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation* **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Bloody Birthday (1980)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Adventures of a Taxi Driver (1976)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** *The Larry Sanders Show* **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nighisland **3.30** Abbot and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Roswell Cover-Ups *and Close Encounters* **9.00** *Babylon 5* **10.00 FILM: Scanner Force (1991)** **12.00am** Twin Peaks **1.00 FILM: Child's Play (1984)** **2.30** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** *Cookabout with Greg and Max* **11.00** *The Diceman* **11.25** *The Home and Leisure House* **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Discover Magazine **9.00** Science Frontiers **10.00** Invisible Places **11.00** Forensic Detectives **12.00am** Super Structures **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Wildlife ER **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** The Blue Beyond **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Deadly Australians **10.30** The Big Animal Show **11.00** Wild Rescues **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Shipwreck on the Skeleton Coast **8.00** Miracle at Sea **9.00** Search for the Battleship Bismarck **10.00** Titanic **11.00** Treasures of the Titanic **11.30** A Natural History **12.00am** Lifeboat: Friendly Rivals **12.30** Lifeboat: Not a Cross Word Spoken

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings: Wings of the Rising Sun **5.00** Artillery **6.00** The Great Sphinx **7.00** NORAD: The Electronic *Sentinel*

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Chef for a Day **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Food Factory **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Green Gourmet **2.00** The Cookshop **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Scotland's Larder **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** From the Ground Up **4.30** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Ten Plus Two **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** The Jerry Springer Show **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Dying to Love You (1993)** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Char Raasta **5.30** Hi Thst Haj **6.00** *Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal* **6.30** *Awaz Nayee Andaz Wohi* **7.00** Faith: Balbaba **7.30** News **8.00** Kardbari Duniya **8.30** Tara **9.00** Zanjeeren **9.30** Zee Health Show **10.00** Urdu: Budh Ke Budhu **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM **3.00** Bangla TV: Nikhatrer Rat **3.30** Public Demand **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Fardeal Antakshari **5.30** Daraar **6.00** Pop Time **6.30** Hip Hip Hurray **7.00** Gudgudee **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Haqeeqat **9.30** Bunt 2 **10.30** X-Zone **11.30** Teva Fun Ten Kahani **12.00am** News **12.30** Zee Business Show **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Par Martan **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie** **4.30** Tamil: An Hour With

RUGBY LEAGUE 44
Optimistic Thunder ready to rumble in Super League

SPORT

TENNIS 46
Frenchman takes on task of improving fortunes of British



England drop Dawson, Catt and Beal for match against Ireland

Woodward wields the axe

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S half-back pendulum swung once again yesterday when the XV to play Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday was named. Kyran Bracken and Paul Grayson have been restored to the side, along with Matt Perry at full back, for an encounter that will be pivotal to the Five Nations Championship.

This was to have been the season in which Clive Woodward, the England coach, reduced change to a minimum. However, there have been no injuries to affect his selection. He has balanced the evidence of the past two games that England have played, against South Africa and Scotland, and decided that three members of his side's spine — Matt Dawson, Mike Catt and Nick Beal — must go.

It is a critical change of direction against an Ireland side

France keep faith 46

that, despite the withdrawal of Jonathan Bell, is savouring the prospect of a first win against England since 1993. It brings together players in Bracken and Grayson who, despite having won 19 and 18 caps respectively, have partnered each other for England only three times, although, as Woodward was swift to observe, those games include the reference point that the 26-26 draw with New Zealand in December 1997 became.

That was the game in which Grayson virtually reinvented himself as a fly half, playing close to the advantage line, though on Saturday he is expected to provide the crucial element of control that Catt does not always do. To be fair to Catt, his past two outings have been encouraging. A fortnight ago, he and Dawson had to play behind an England pack whose collective form was indifferent, yet the forwards survive intact.

"It's the right decision for this weekend," Woodward said. "We're fully aware of how difficult this game will be and how well Ireland have been playing, particularly against France in a match they should have won. The forwards know there is pressure from others on them, both among the replacements and in the A side. They are under no illusions. The performance against Scotland was not acceptable."

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Bracken, right, restored to the team at half back in partnership with Grayson, prepares to set his backs in motion during England training yesterday

That asks the question of why Martin Corry or Danny Grewcock, for example, should not have started against Ireland. The critics of Woodward's favoured back row, composed of three players who are essentially flankers, include a former England forwards coach in David Robinson, who would play a specialist No 8 such as Corry and keep either Richard Hill or Neil Back among the replacements, with a specific role to play in the second half. Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, will wear the No 8 shirt and has promised that players such as himself, Martin Johnson and Jeremy Guscott will recapture their best form this weekend.

There promises to be an interesting clash around the fringe of the set-pieces if Ireland intend to set Victor Costello, who weighs in at 18 stone, running at the England defence, which was none too sound against Scotland.

Bracken's form for Saracens has been compelling this season, injuries to back and hand affecting his availability for England's pre-Christmas internationals. At least that has allowed Dawson a run of five games on which to build a case after playing outstandingly well on the southern-hemisphere tour last summer. "Now Kyran is over his injuries and back in the squad, it's important to give him a go again," Woodward said.

"It's always a difficult call to choose between two world-class players, but Bracken has been playing very well. The same applies to Grayson and Perry, they're in on merit. Grayson is a good reader of the game, a good controller. I did consider moving Jonny Wilkinson to fly half, but the bottom line is that he's not playing there for his club."

More to the point, in the absence of Will Greenwood and Phil de Glanville, Woodward's cupboard at centre is relatively bare and Wilkinson fills the void. Perry comes in for his fifteenth cap in place of Beal, who, despite his well-taken try against Scotland, has never looked utterly secure under the high ball, of which Ireland will offer plenty on Saturday.

Perry has been exercising himself at fly half on occasions for Bath and is turning himself into a goalkicker with some success, though with Wilkinson and Grayson in the side that is one skill unlikely to be tested. For the first time in nine years at any level, Grayson will start a match as second-choice kicker, behind Wilkinson, who landed four out of four against Scotland.

"Even if I'm not in goalkicking mode, you still have to do all the other things well," Grayson said. "Number ten is a tough shirt to hang on to, but we have been playing well at Northampton and confident players come from winning teams."

Ireland, meanwhile, decided that the thigh injury he sustained at the weekend would not permit the unfortunate Bell to play. "We didn't want to take the chance of having to make a late change," Donal Lenihan, the team manager, said. He has the comfort that Rob Henderson, the Wasps centre, can comfortably replace Bell and has already done so — against France, when Henderson turned out to be the man of the match.

TEAM

ENGLAND (v Ireland, Saturday): M B Perry; D L Rees, J P Wilkinson, J C Guscott, D D Luger; P J Grayson, K P P Bracken; J Leonard, R Cockerill, D J Garforth, M O Johnson, T A K Rodber, R A Hill, N A Back, L B N Dallaglio (captain). **Replacements:** M J S Dawson, M J Catt, N D Beal, M E Corry, D J Grewcock, V E Ubogu, N McCarthy.



Perry, right, and Grayson have both benefited from Woodward's decision to change a winning England team

Venables not to blame in Palace crisis

BY JOHN GOODBODY

TERRY VENABLES said yesterday that the crisis at Crystal Palace, which went into voluntary administration yesterday, was "something out of my control". Venables, who was appointed last July by Mark Goldberg, the club chairman, at a reported salary of £1 million, said that it would be "very unfair" to blame him as head coach, adding that insufficient money had been available to buy players.

After a five-hour board meeting yesterday, the Nationwide League first division club, which is between £7 million and £9 million in debt, will be administered by two accountants from Buchler Phillips to buy time to meet debts from creditors. All the players are up for sale.

Venables, who stood down as head coach in January, has been retained as a consultant by Palace, although he does not attend matches in an official capacity. The former England coach said yesterday: "I liked Goldberg a lot. He had a lot of good ideas and was very enthusiastic. He is an experienced businessman, but this business is different.

"We were going to spend £10 million and maybe the likes of Barmby and Sheringham may have joined us to go straight back [to the FA Carling Premiership]. I think he overstretched himself more than he would have hoped ... in buying the club."

Goldberg bought Palace for £23.5 million from Ron Noades, who had built up the club and who has retained ownership of the ground and the training centre. Speaking on *The Last Word* on Sky Sports News, Venables said: "Very quickly into the season, money wasn't available, the contract is breached and I have got to make decision again. Then he said — and this I didn't know — if we don't go up straight away, we have gone over budget.

"Then he had to get rid of the players that were over a certain amount of money and I came into that category and we sat down sensibly. Many years before, I may not have taken it so well."

In January, Palace were forced to sell Matt Jansen, their outstanding striker, to Blackburn Rovers for £4.5 million.

Asked whether his spell at Palace had been a failure, Venables replied: "How could it be when I was only there six months? That would very unfair. It was something out of my control. I hope he [Goldberg] gets through this."

Portsmouth, where Venables was chairman last season, and Chester City are two other Nationwide League clubs at present in administration.

Jim McAvoy, the former Palace chief executive, who resigned from the board on Tuesday, has called on Goldberg to reduce his stake in the club, but the chairman has vowed to fight on, insisting that the decision to go into administration will make the club healthier in the long term.

In the meantime, Goldberg has been forced to pay £500,000 in outstanding wages to staff out of his own pocket, but the players are fearful about their futures. Simon Rodger, the longest-serving player, said yesterday: "This has come as a big shock. The last thing administrators are going to do is approve anyone getting a new contract. I am on far less money than a lot of players here, but no one is going to be safe from being cleared out.

"The only good thing about this is that the chairman has finally stopped hiding the truth. But it would be nice if he could call a meeting of the players and explain exactly what the future holds."

He added: "We did get paid, which was something, but should never have got in this situation. Mark Goldberg has Palace at heart but he has been very naive."

Goldberg has said that the present board inherited a wage bill of £7 million a year, which has now been reduced to £4.5 million.

However, it is understood that several players are still receiving high salaries.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1656

ACROSS
1 Illumination (5)
4 Work team (7)
8 Disgracefully bad (9)
9 A tree; its burnt remains? (3)
10 Fifty percent (4)
11 A terrier: *a shy male (anag.)* (8)
13 Alliance: club competition (6)
14 Further in same direction (6)
17 One from Zagreb (8)
19 A bird; a bar: complain (4)
22 Overweight (3)
23 Made bad mistake (9)
24 Forcibly subdue, put down (7)
25 Red Sea/Aden Gulf republic (5)

DOWN
1 Dog-lead (5)
2 The largest ape (7)
3 A nail; a sailing course (4)
4 Tamed; damaged (6)
5 Cheeky (8)
6 (Boat) flooded (5)
7 (Body) dug up (7)
12 Apt (8)
13 Satan: a match (7)
15 Letter mixture (7)
16 *All the world's a stage* speaker *(AYLI)* (6)
18 With the advantage (2,3)
20 Encumbered (5)
21 Start of Europe liberation, 1944 (1-3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1655
ACROSS: 1 Casino 4 Images 9 Bluster 10 Syria 11 Raked 13 Solvent 14 Sup 15 Posit 16 Ion 17 Risotto 19 Erect 21 Pluto 22 Deceive 24 Deluge 25 Spread
DOWN: 1 Caber 2 Stuck/up 3 Net 5 Mistletoe 6 Gorge 7 Spartan 8 Cross swords 12 Diphthong 14 Striped 16 Itemise 18 Scull 20 Tread 23 Cup

Latvian ace gets cold shoulder

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, may be thought to have had enough on his diplomatic plate at the moment, but he should at least be warned. Latvia is outraged at the refusal of the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) to grant a work permit to Marians Parhars, one of the Baltic state's leading footballers.

Southampton want to sign him, and have agreed a fee of £800,000 and a four-year contract, but the DfEE refuses to play ball. Adding insult to injury, it has ruled that Parhars, 22, cannot appear in the FA Carling Premiership — and assist Southampton's fight against relegation — because it deems him to be not of sufficient standard. Officials at the Latvian embassy in London are not amused.

"It is a big insult to Latvia," Silvester Savickis, the political and press secretary said. "Marians is the No 1 footballer in our country and he would be the first Latvian to play football in England. Everyone has heard of him. In the last World Cup qualifying series, he was our best player — probably the best we have ever had. Saying Latvia aren't good enough is a joke. The people who have made this decision are not football experts, they are civil servants."

Southampton are similarly upset and have appealed. Latvia lead group two in the European championship qualifying campaign with six points from three matches. They had a 3-1 away win against Norway, who played in the World Cup finals last summer and are 76th in the world rankings — 16 places above Wales and ten higher than Estonia, whose goalkeeper, Mart Poom, plays for Derby County.

"It's mystifying," Brian Truscott, the Southampton secretary, said. "We received a fax back from the DfEE saying that his work permit has been refused because he doesn't meet the required standard — because Latvia aren't ranked high enough in the world.

"To qualify for a work permit, the rules state that you must have played 75 per cent of the competitive internationals for your country within the last two years. Marians has been a regular for Latvia. He played in eight of their nine matches in the qualifying stages of the last World Cup and missed the ninth only because he was suspended."

Parhars — whose fans revere him as the Michael Owen of Latvian football — has played in 31 matches since he broke into the national side three years ago. He helped Skonto Riga, his club, to the national championship last season and, while on trial with Southampton, scored a hat-trick against Oxford United in a reserve game.

"We felt that every rule laid down had been met," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said, "but they don't count Latvia as being strong enough. How can that be right? I've been quoted prices of around £5 million for players of similar standard in this country but if I had to spend that kind of money, I'd bankrupt the club."

English football has recently featured players from Georgia, Belarus, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Moldova, Ghana, Morocco, Zaire, Zimbabwe and China. Latvia, apparently, will not be joining the list.

Jones: mystified by ruling